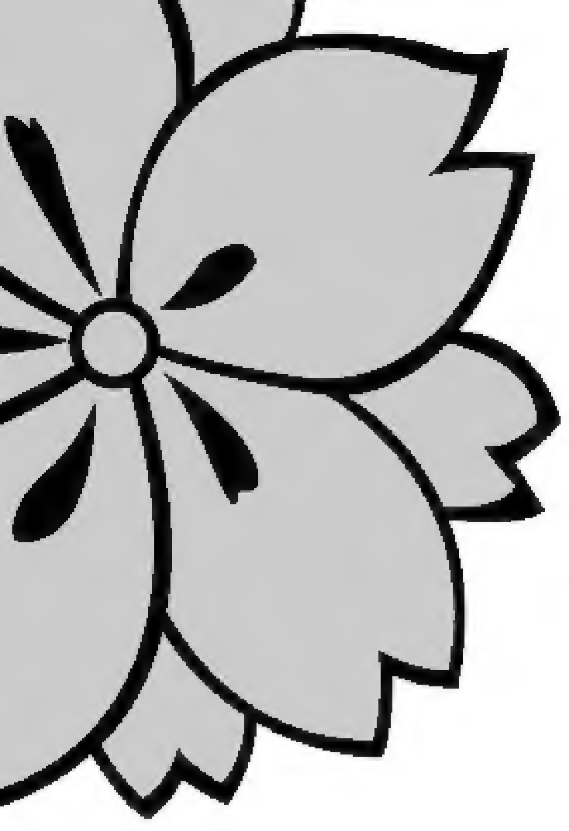
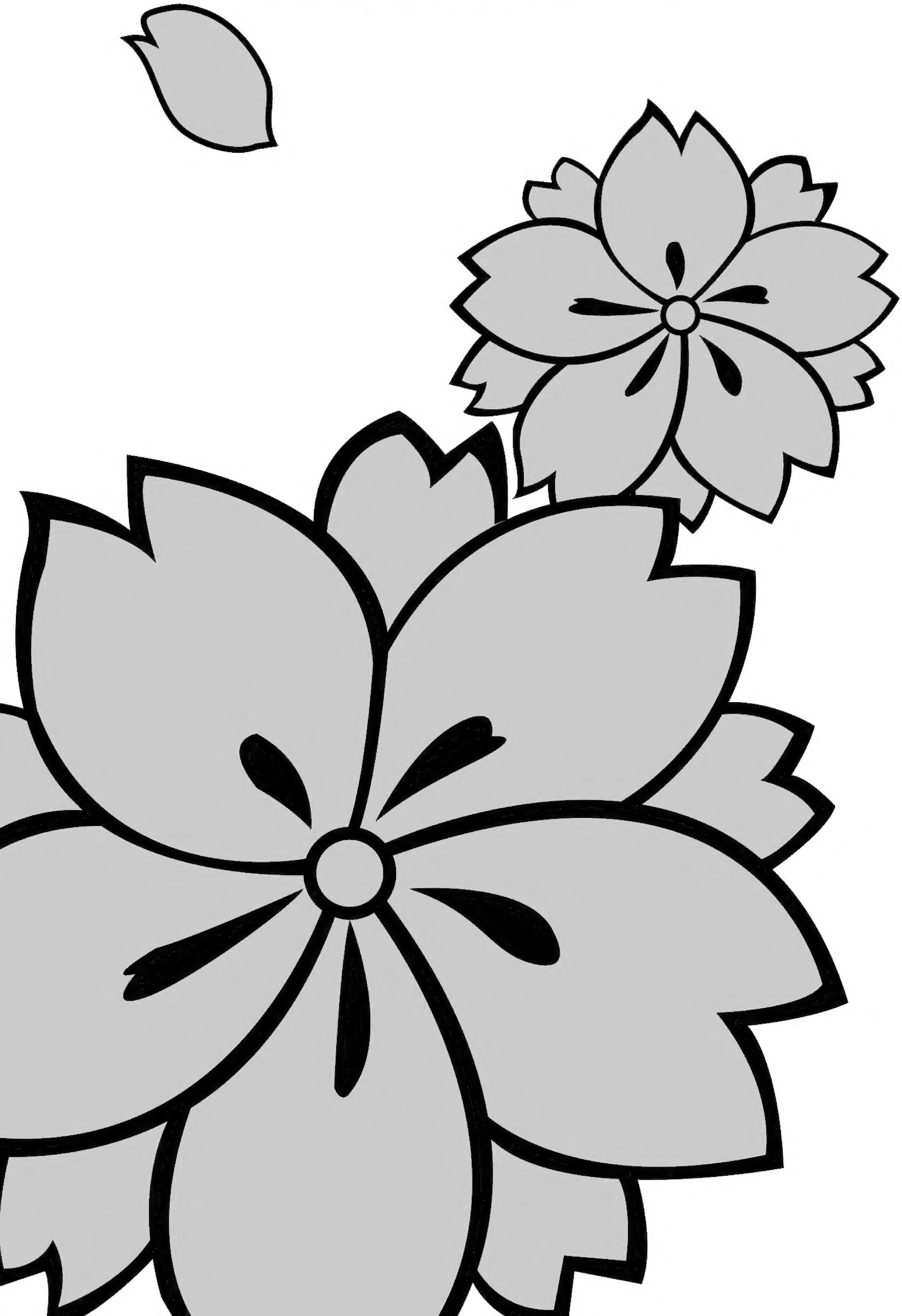
15

Yozakura Quartet

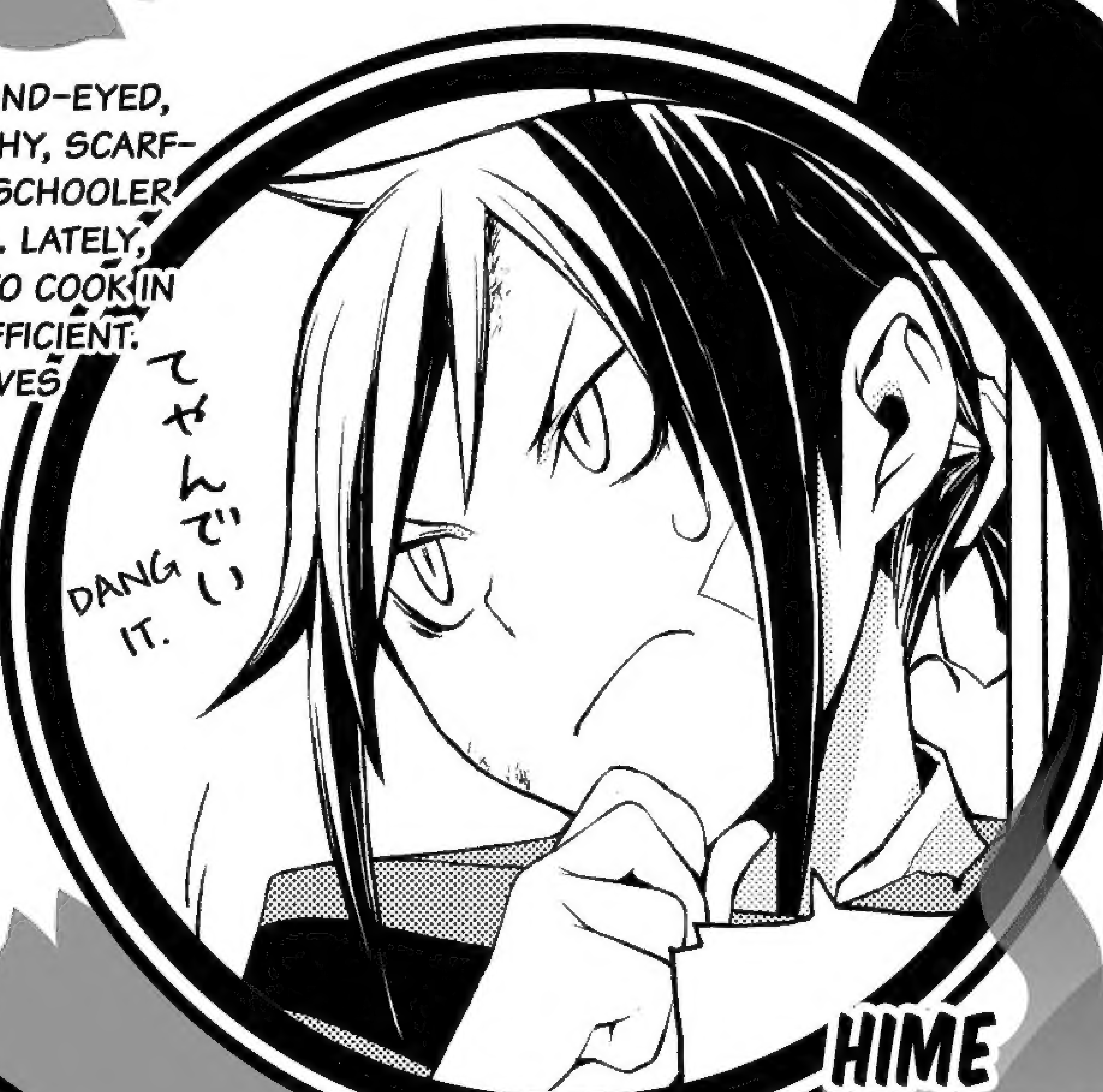
Suzuhito Yasuda



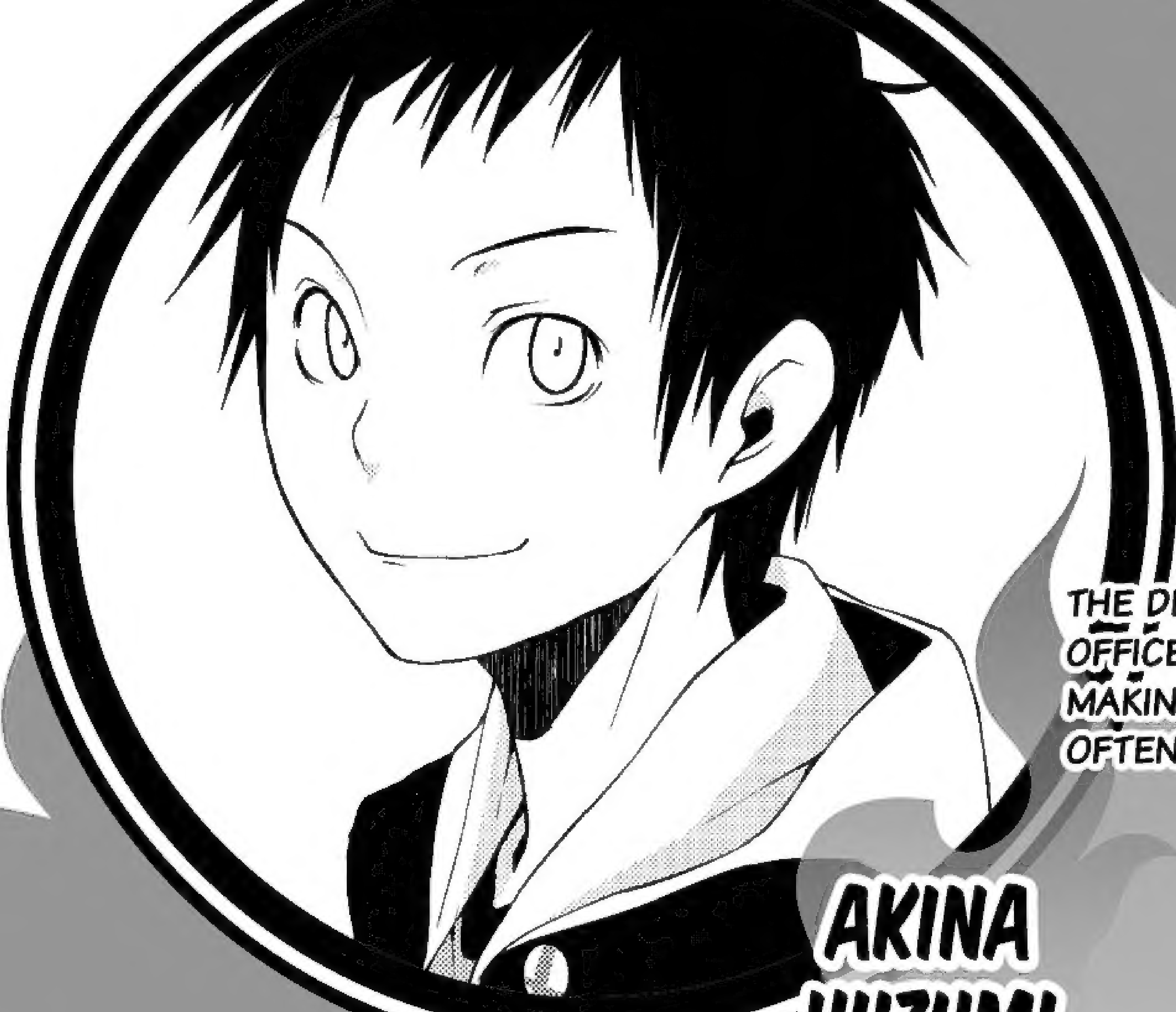
YOZAKURA QUARTET 15



A RAMBUNCTIOUS, MOODY, ALMOND-EYED, NOODLE/COMEDY-LOVING, HEALTHY, SCARF-CLAD, PONYTAILED DEMON HIGH SCHOOLER AND THE MAYOR OF SAKURASHIN. LATELY, SHE'S STARTED LEARNING HOW TO COOK IN AN EFFORT TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT. EVEN SO, IT SEEMS SHE STILL LOVES AKINA'S COOKING THE MOST


てやんでい
DANG IT.

HIME YARIZAKURA



AKINA HIIZUMI

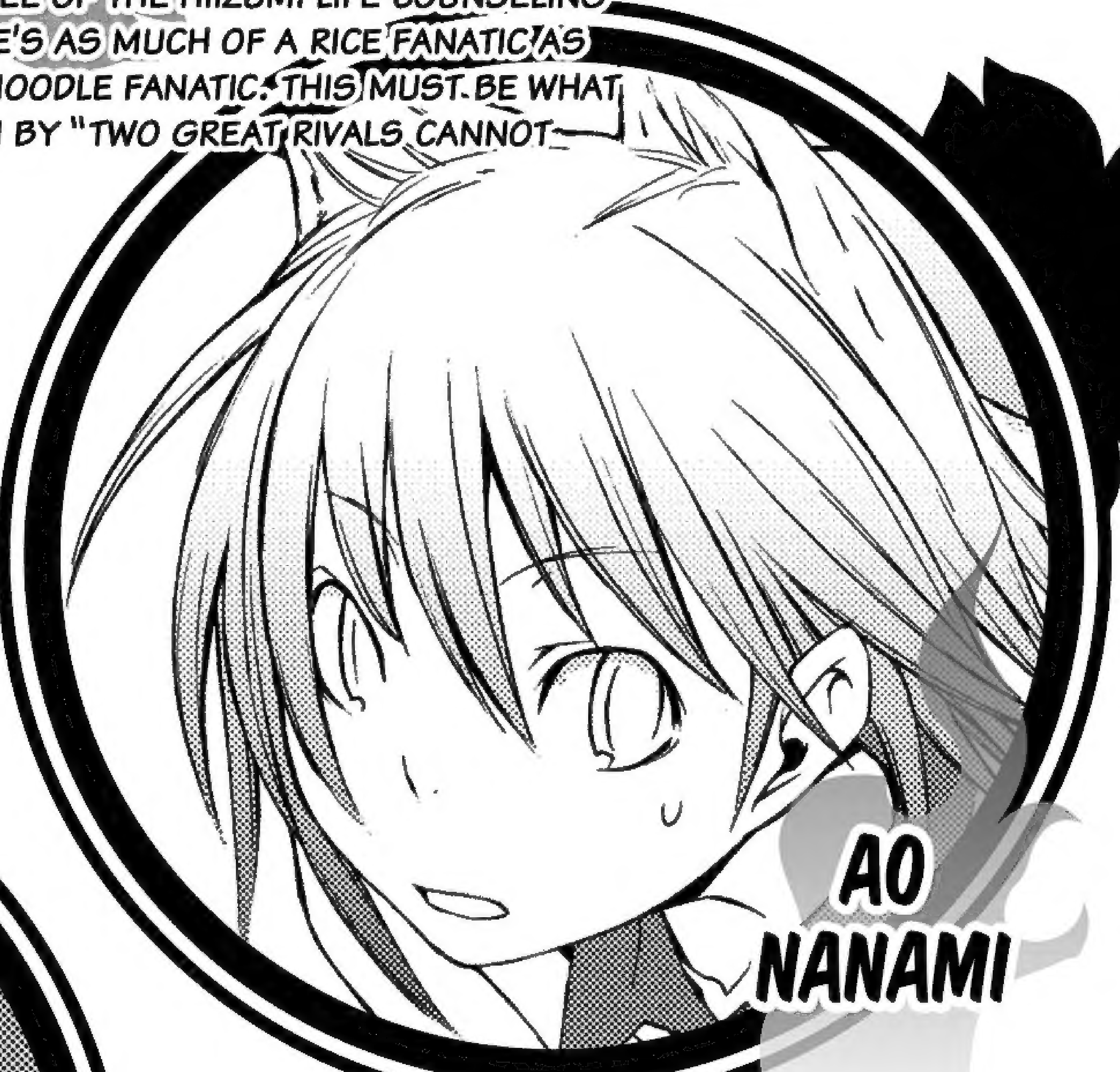
THE DIRECTOR OF THE HIIZUMI LIFE COUNSELING OFFICE. AS ABOUT 20% OF HIS WORKDAY GOES INTO MAKING FOOD FOR HIME AND HIS EMPLOYEES, HE'S OFTEN IN THE OFFICE VERY LATE.

Quartet of cherry blossoms in the night

YOZAKURA QUARTET

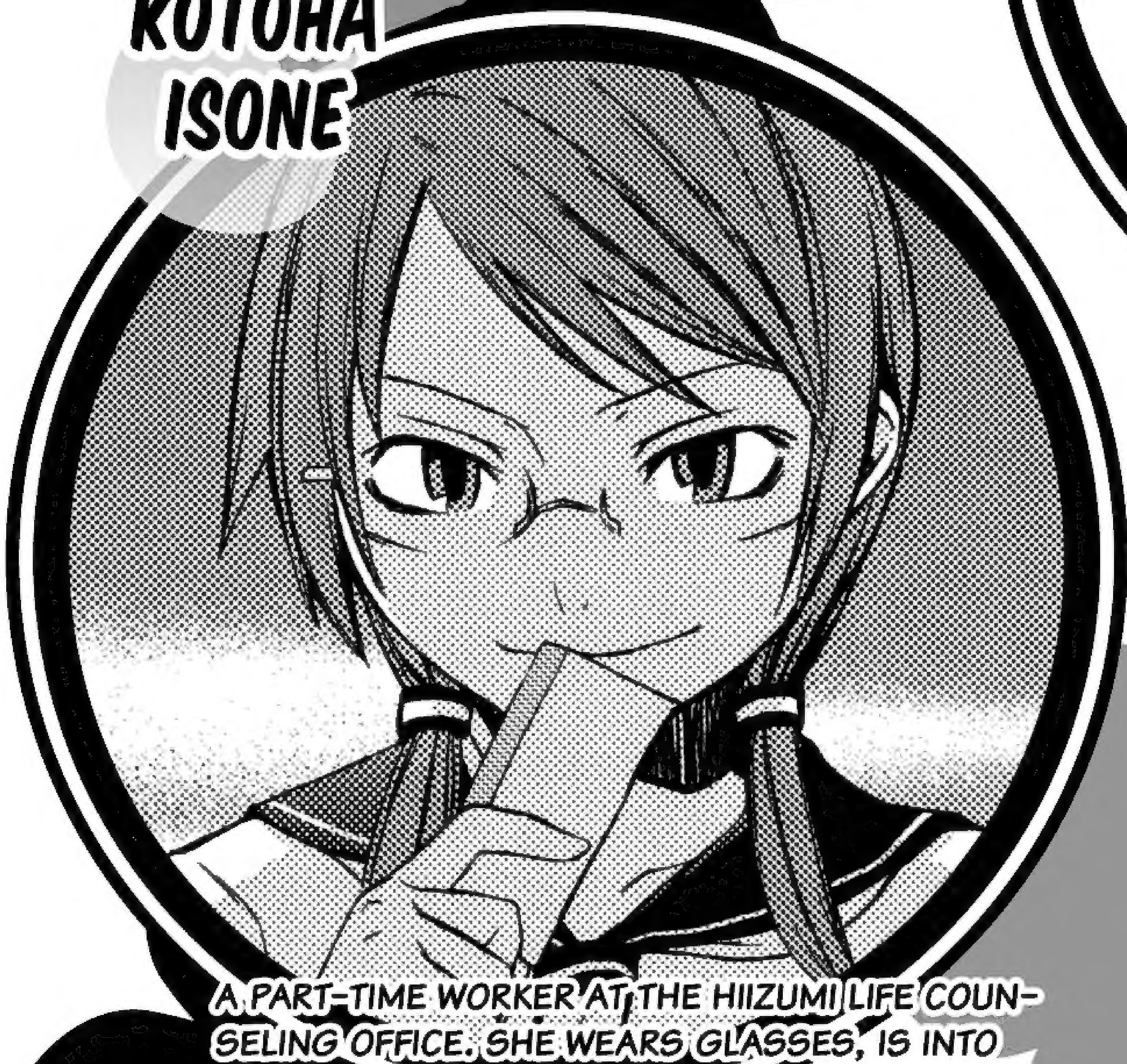
CHARACTER PROFILE

AN EMPLOYEE OF THE HIIZUMI LIFE COUNSELING OFFICE. SHE'S AS MUCH OF A RICE FANATIC AS HIME IS A NOODLE FANATIC. THIS MUST BE WHAT THEY MEAN BY "TWO GREAT RIVALS CANNOT COEXIST."

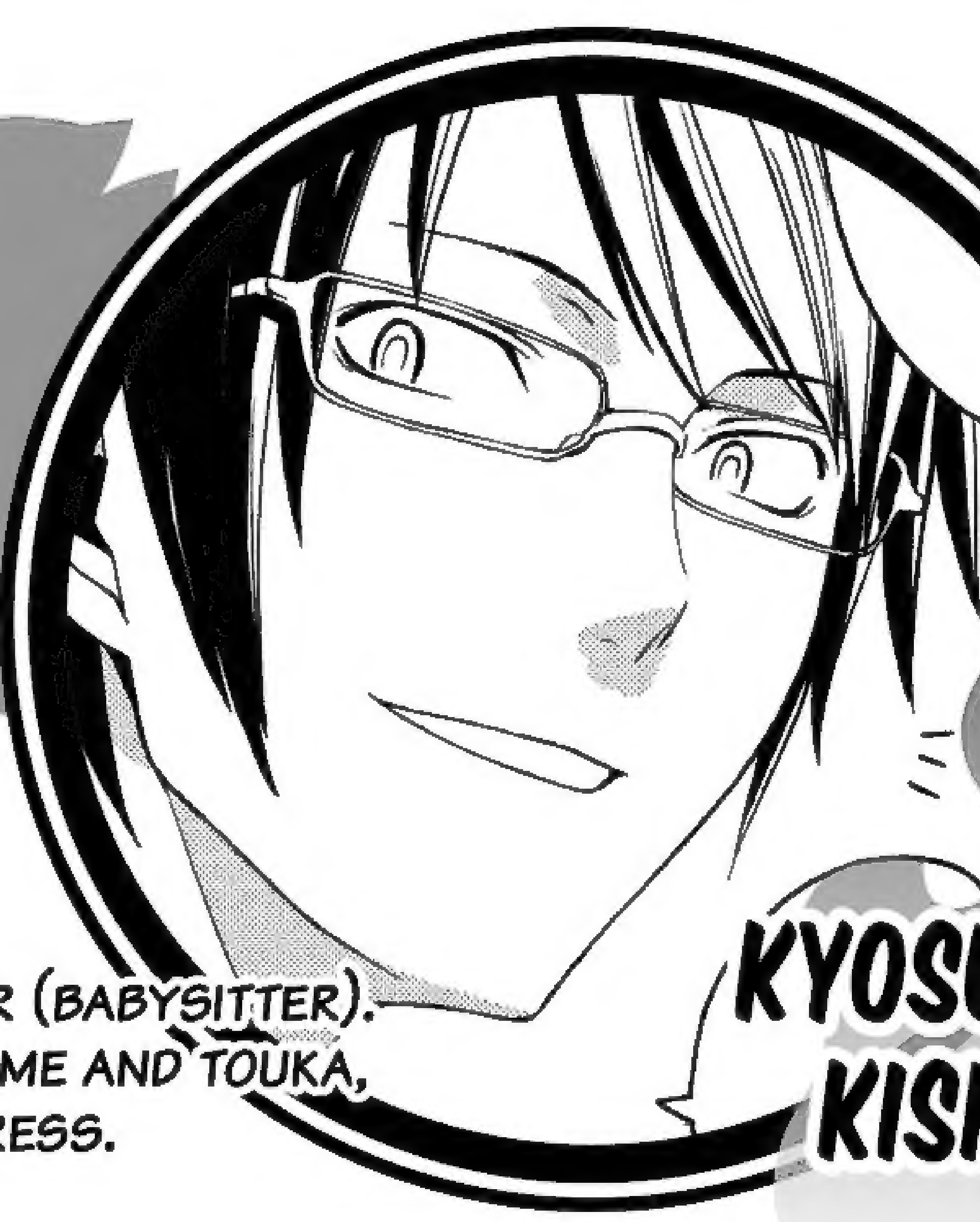


AO NANAMI

KOTOHA ISONE

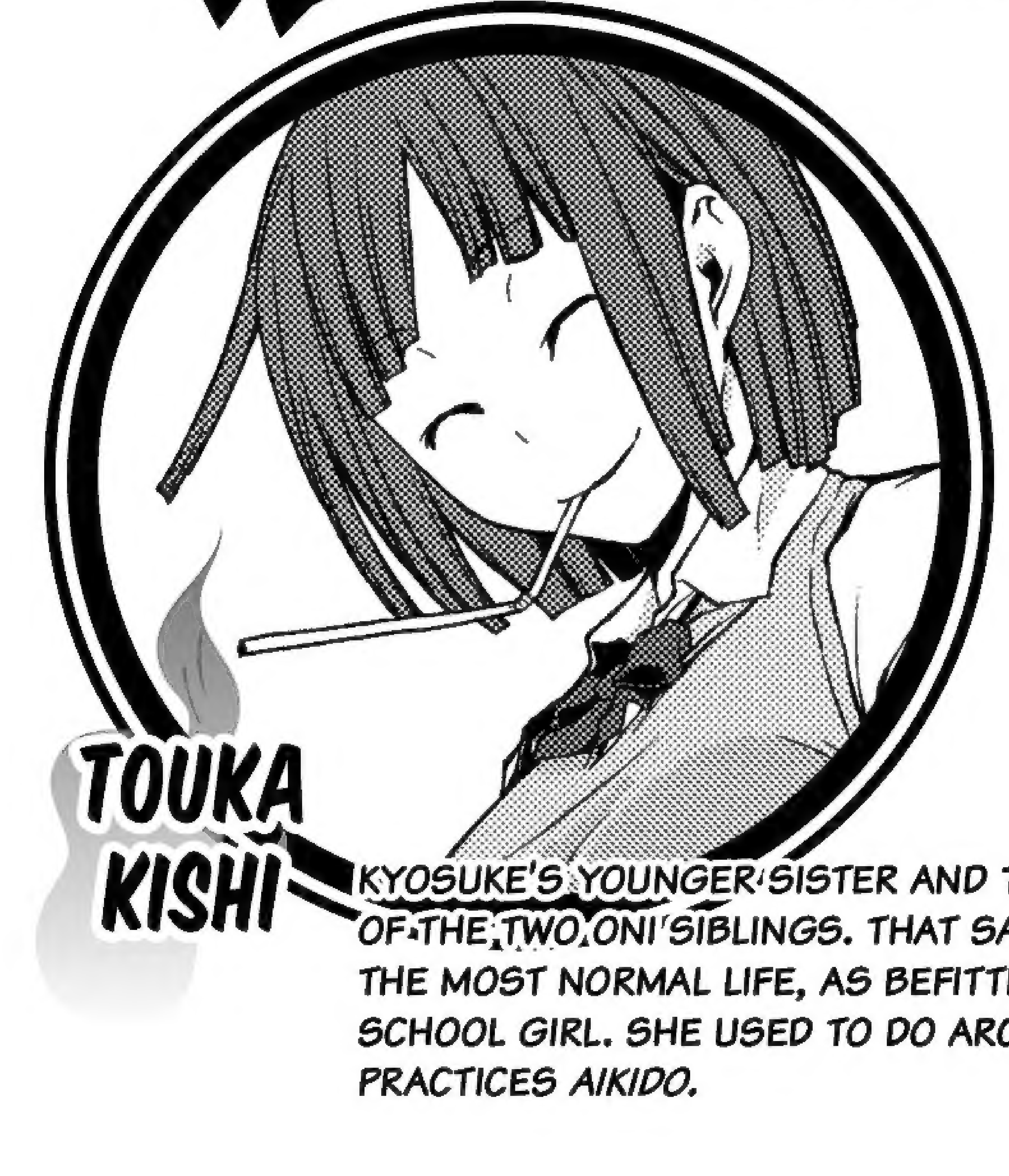


A PART-TIME WORKER AT THE HIIZUMI LIFE COUNSELING OFFICE. SHE WEARS GLASSES, IS INTO GIRLS, AND HAS BIG BOOBS, AMONG OTHER CLICHÉS, BUT SHE ALSO HAS THE MOST REFRESHING PERSONALITY.



KYOSUKE KISHI

HIME'S ASSISTANT AND OVERSEER (BABYSITTER). HE HAS TO TAKE CARE OF BOTH HIME AND TOUKA, SO HIS DAYS ARE FILLED WITH STRESS.

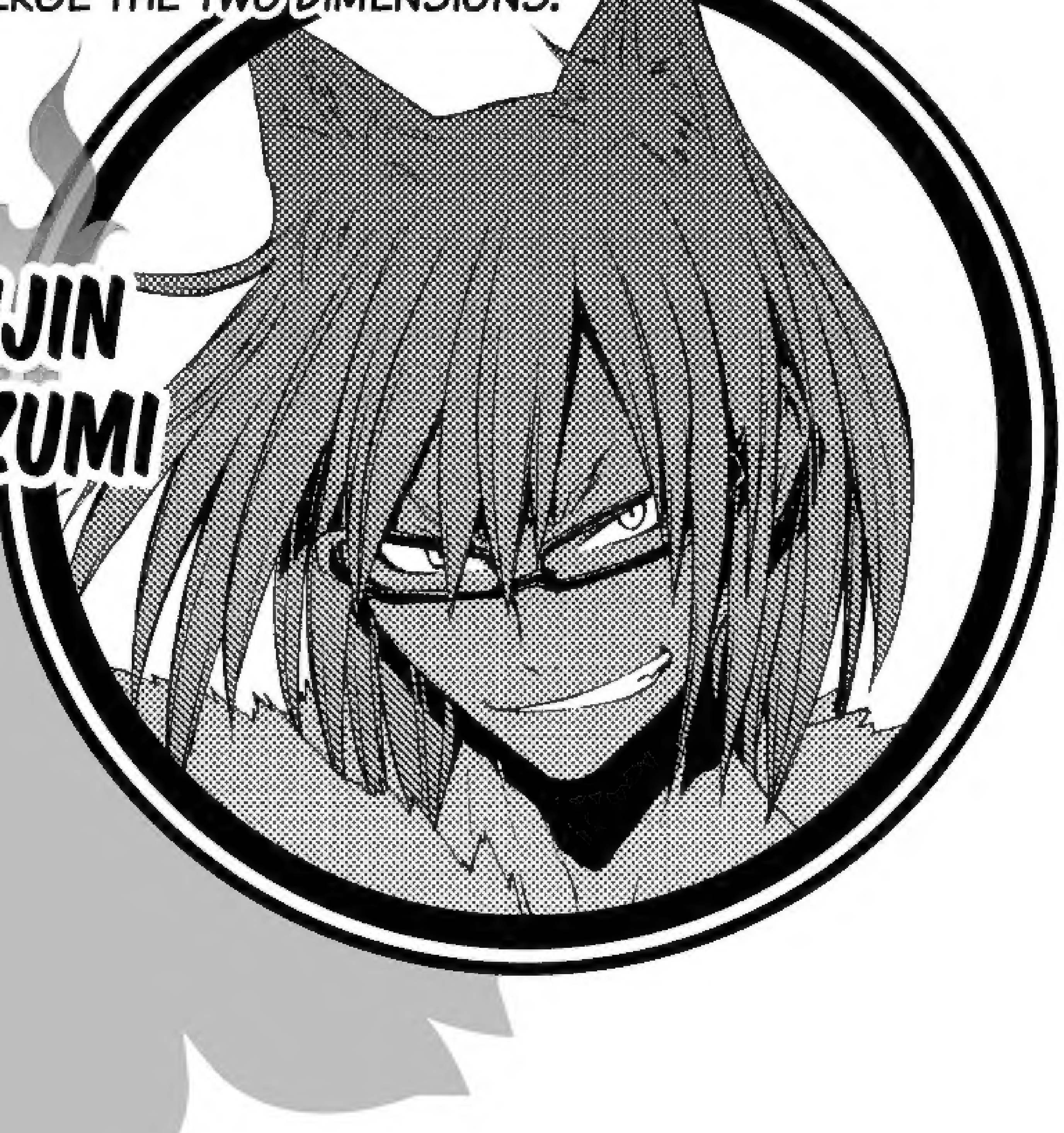


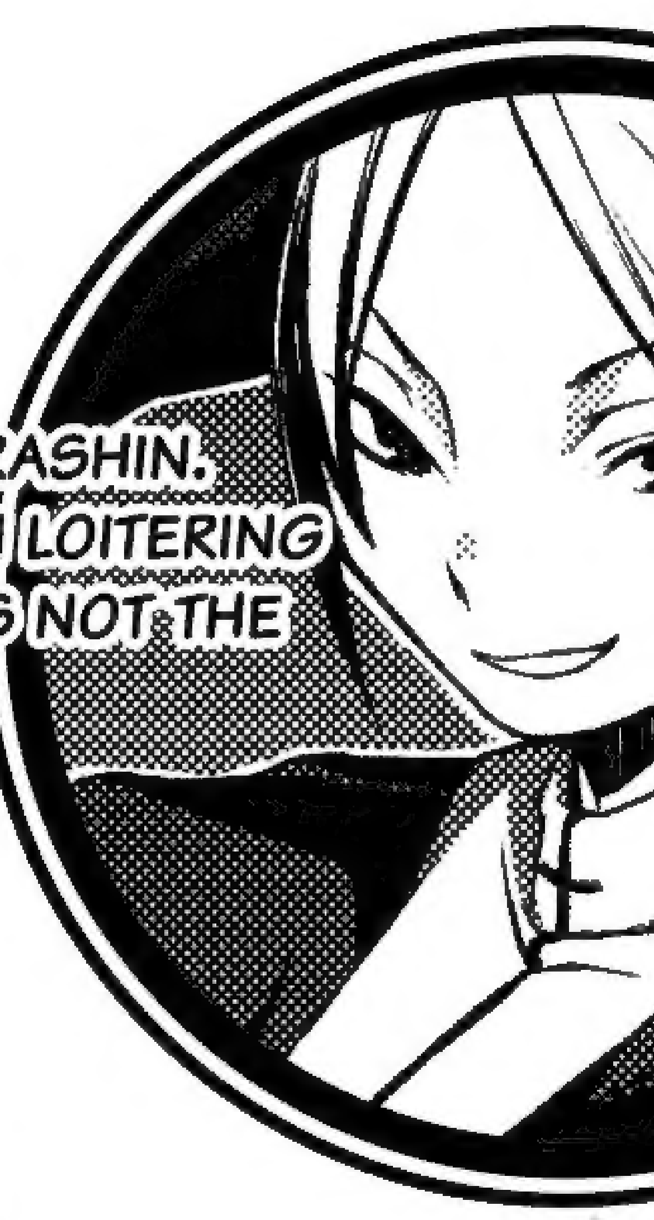
TOUKA KISHI

KYOSUKE'S YOUNGER SISTER AND THE FAIRER HALF OF THE TWO ONI SIBLINGS. THAT SAID, SHE LEADS THE MOST NORMAL LIFE, AS BEFITTING A HIGH-SCHOOL GIRL. SHE USED TO DO ARCHERY, BUT NOW PRACTICES AIKIDO.

A DESCENDANT OF ENYOU HIIZUMI. HE TOOK OVER THE BODY OF GIN, AO'S OLDER BROTHER, AND HE IS PLANNING TO MAKE THE SEVEN PILLARS BLOOM IN ORDER TO MERGE THE TWO DIMENSIONS.

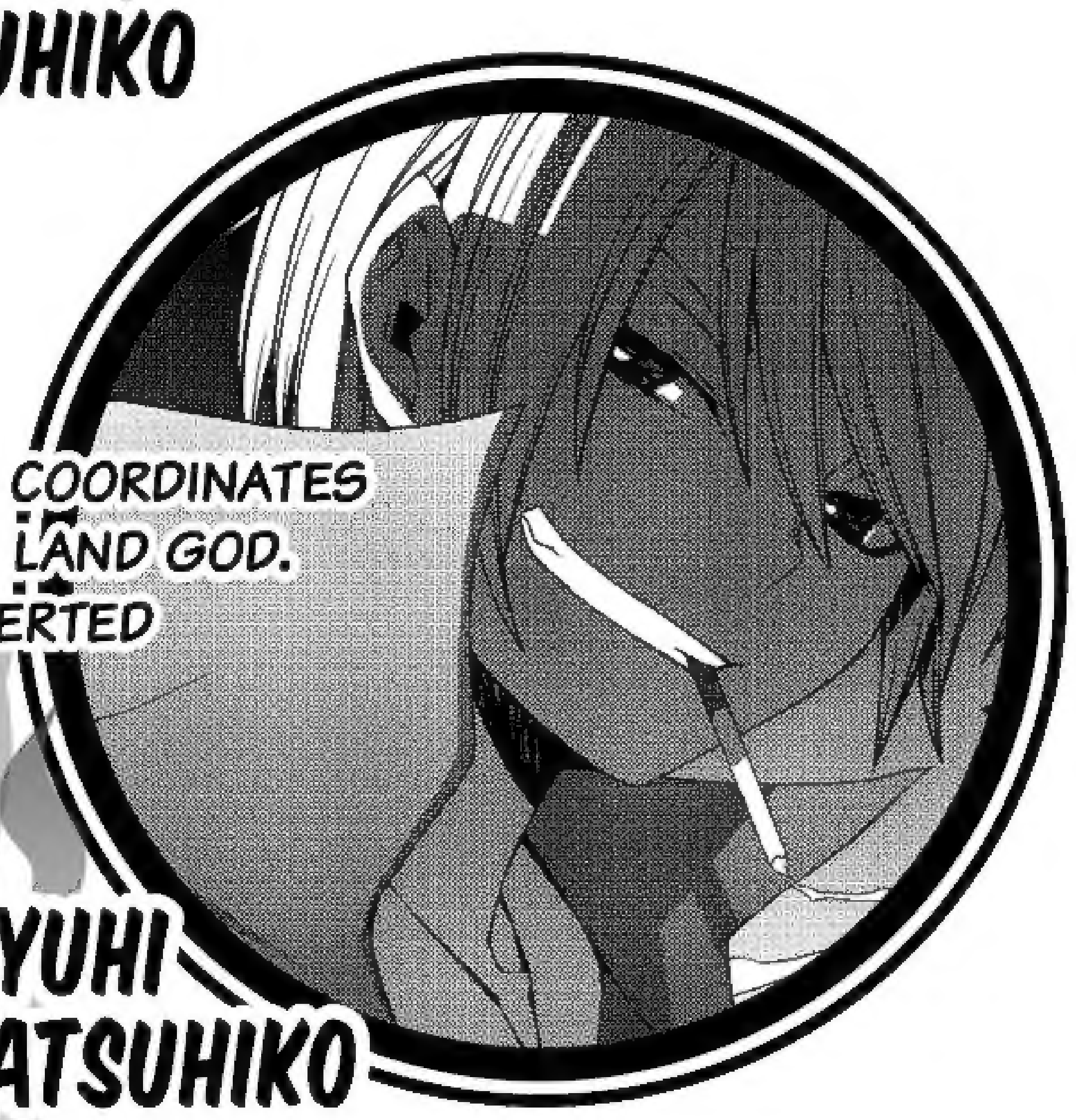
ENJIN HIIZUMI





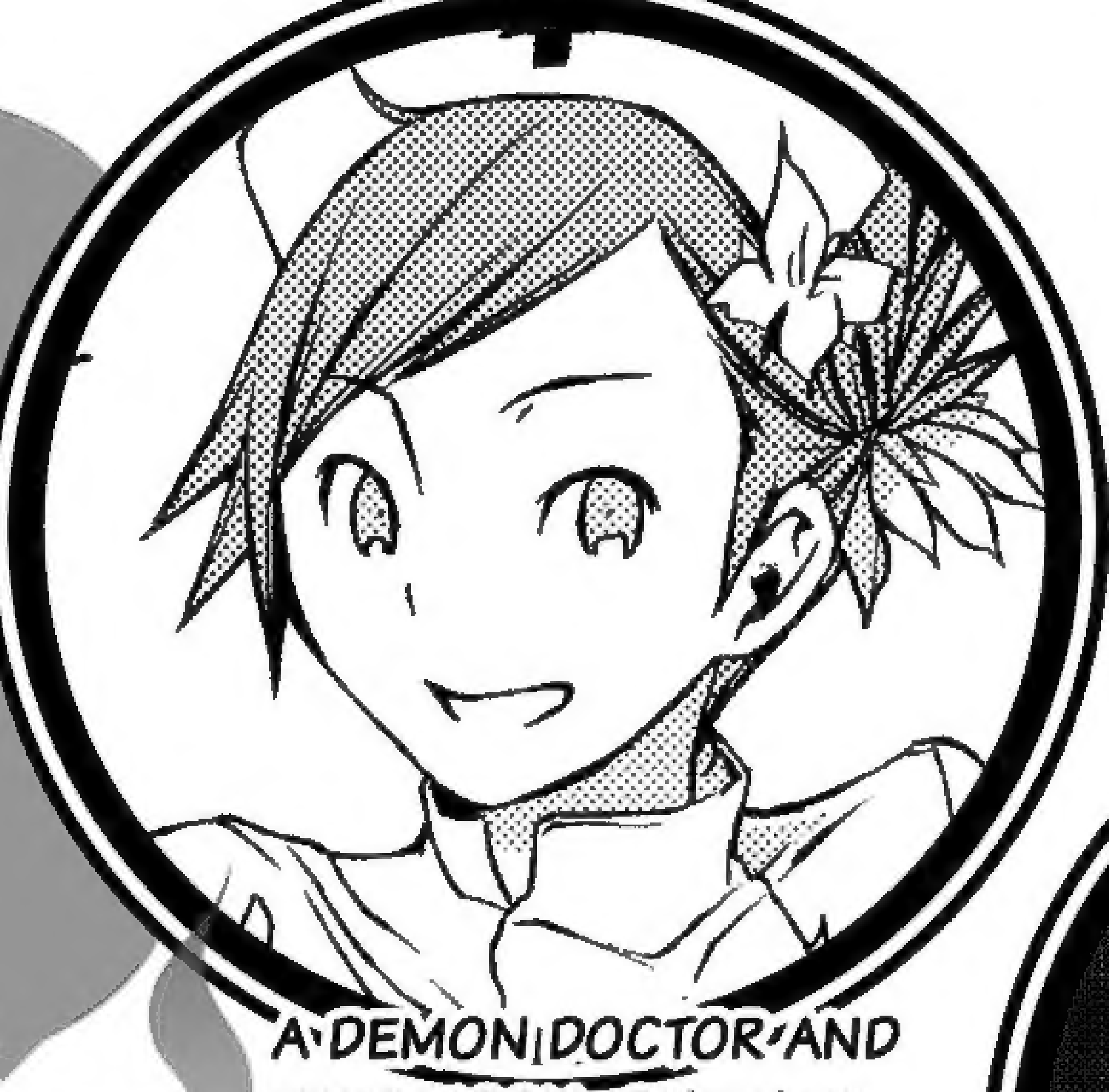
YAE SHINATSUHIKO

THE LAND GOD OF SAKURASHIN. SHE CAN OFTEN BE SEEN LOITERING AROUND TOWN, SO SHE'S NOT THE MOST DIGNIFIED DEITY.



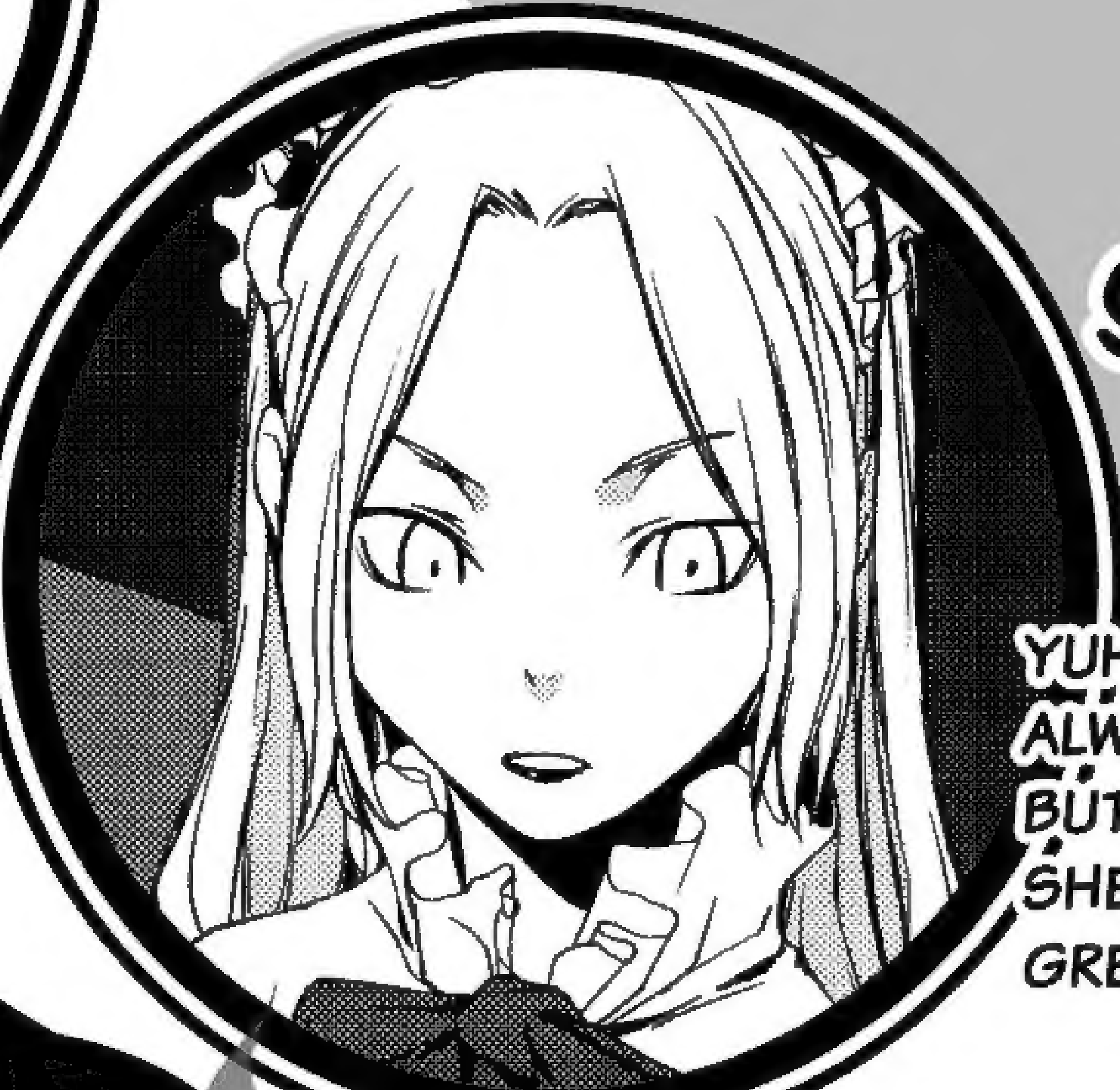
YUHI SHINATSUHIKO

THE DISTRICT MAYOR WHO COORDINATES THE TOWNS. HE IS ALSO A LAND GOD. DEEP DOWN, HE IS A PERVERTED OLD MAN.



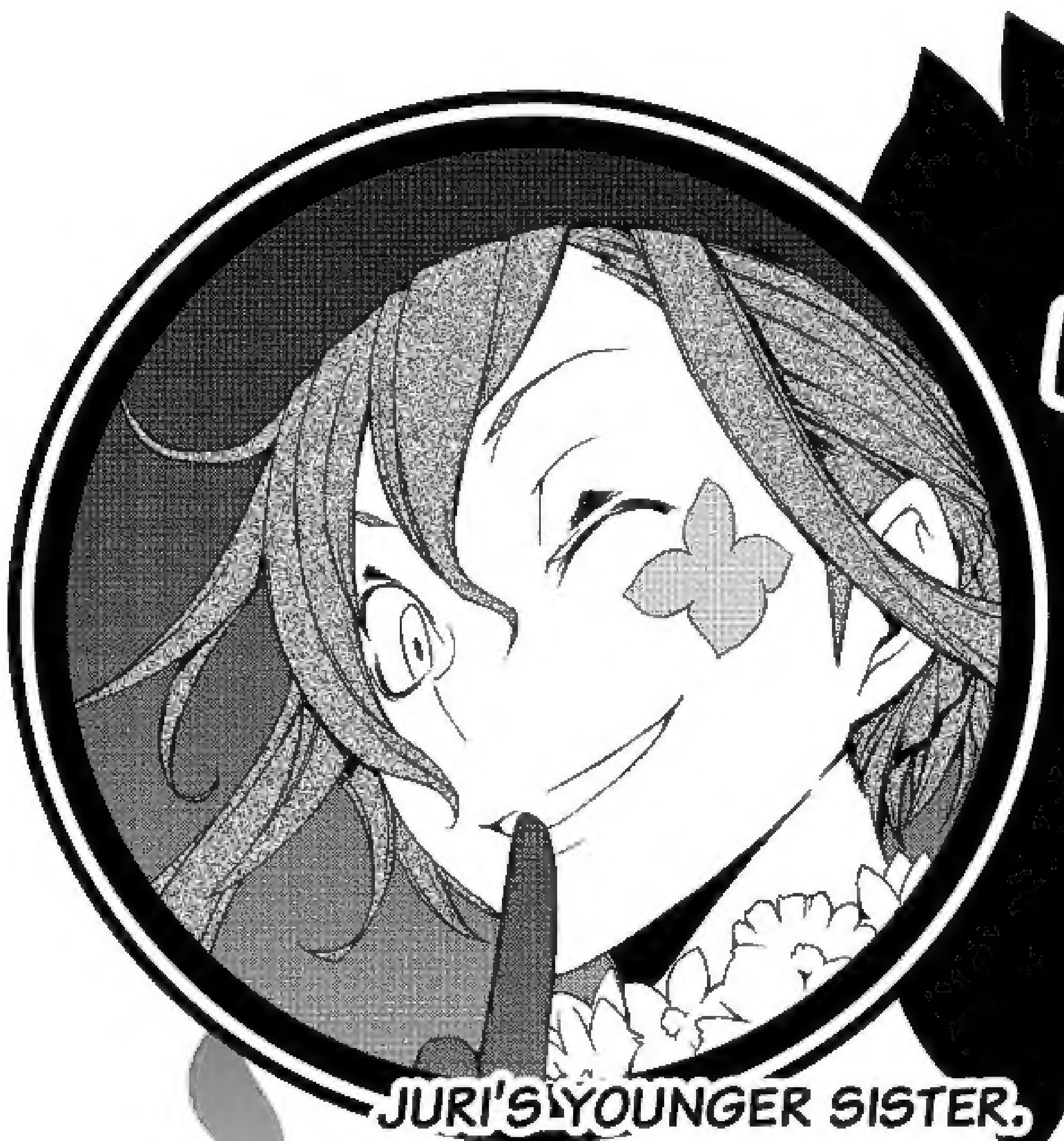
JURI

A DEMON DOCTOR AND TOWN ICON. SHE HAS BEEN ABSTAINING FROM SHOW BUSINESS LATELY.



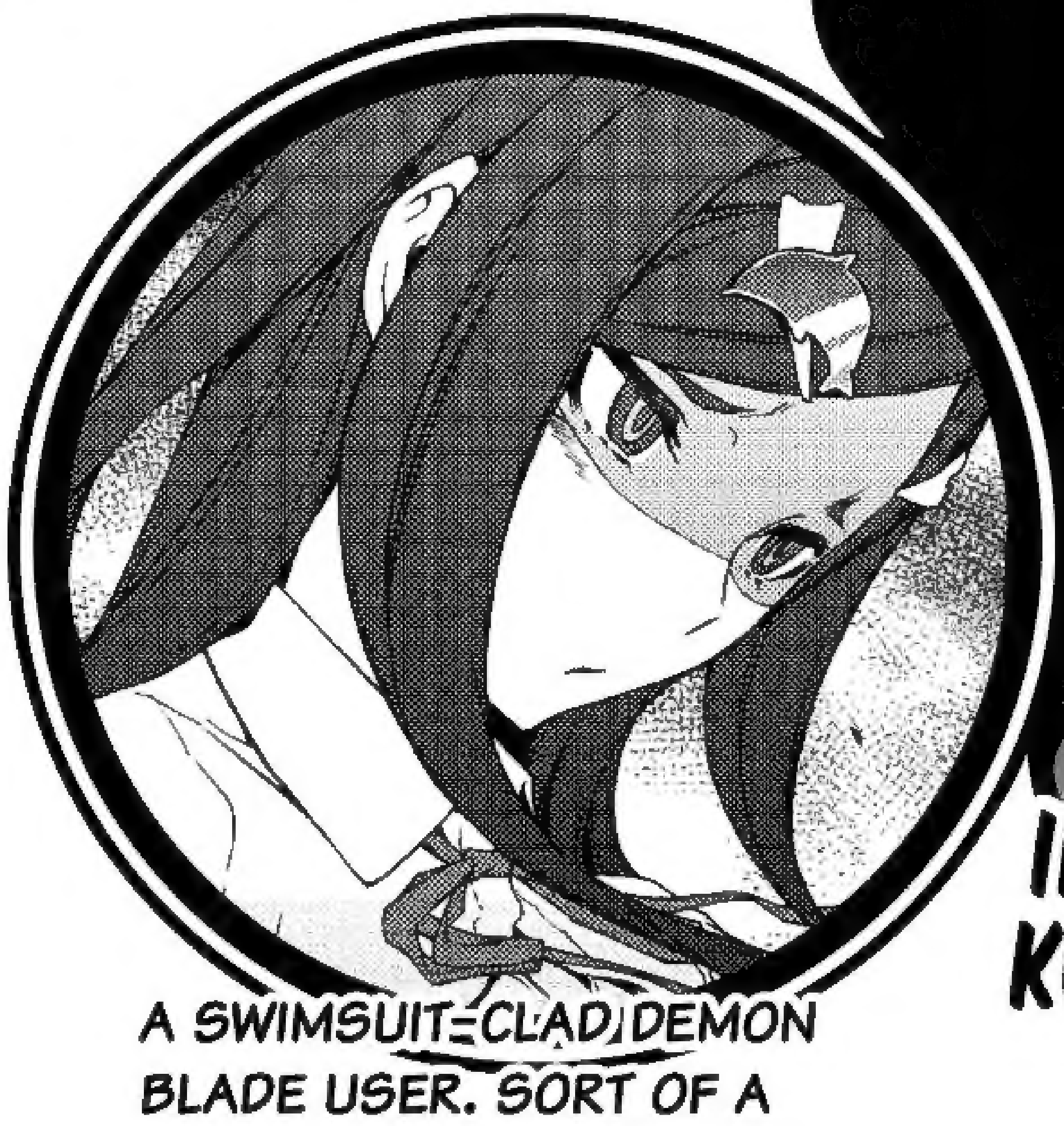
MARIABELL

YUHI'S SECRETARY. SHE IS ALWAYS ORDERED TO COSPLAY, BUT SHE SEEMS TO ENJOY IT. SHE IS ALSO JURI'S GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDMOTHER.



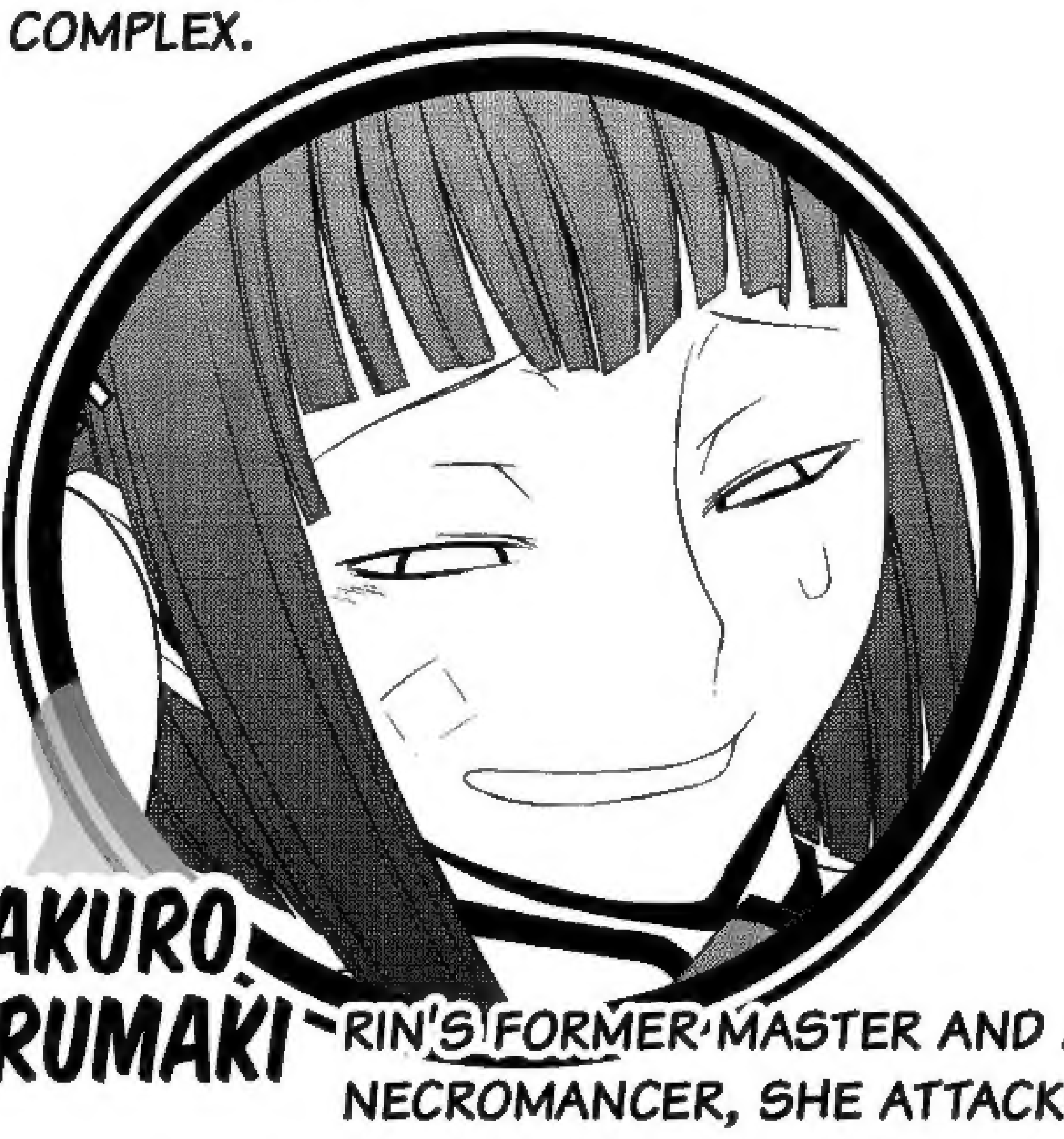
LILA

JURI'S YOUNGER SISTER. A WITCH/MAGICIAN WITH A SISTER COMPLEX.



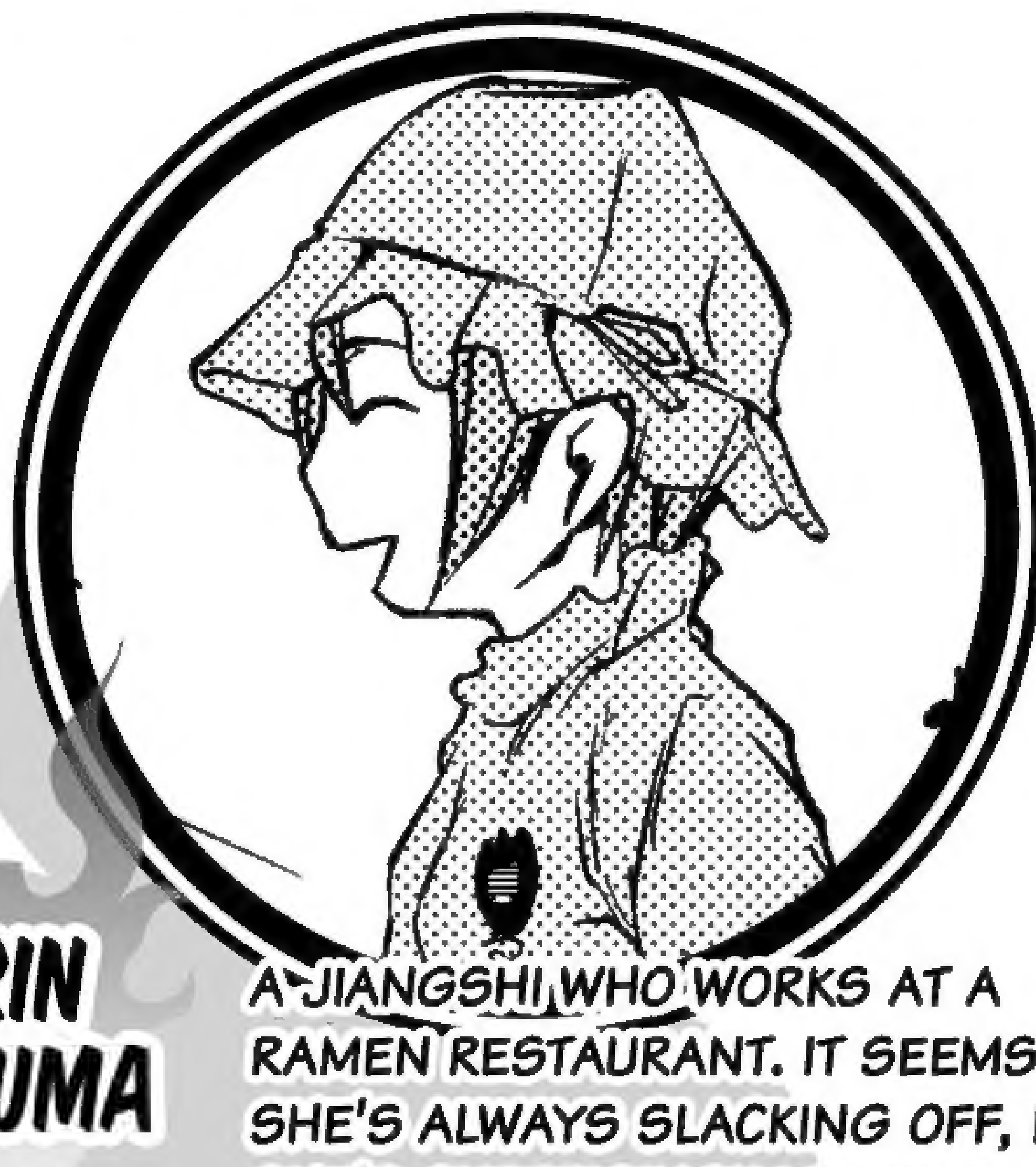
IRUKA KUJOIN

A SWIMSUIT-CLAD DEMON BLADE USER. SORT OF A SPACE CASE, BUT SUPER STRONG.



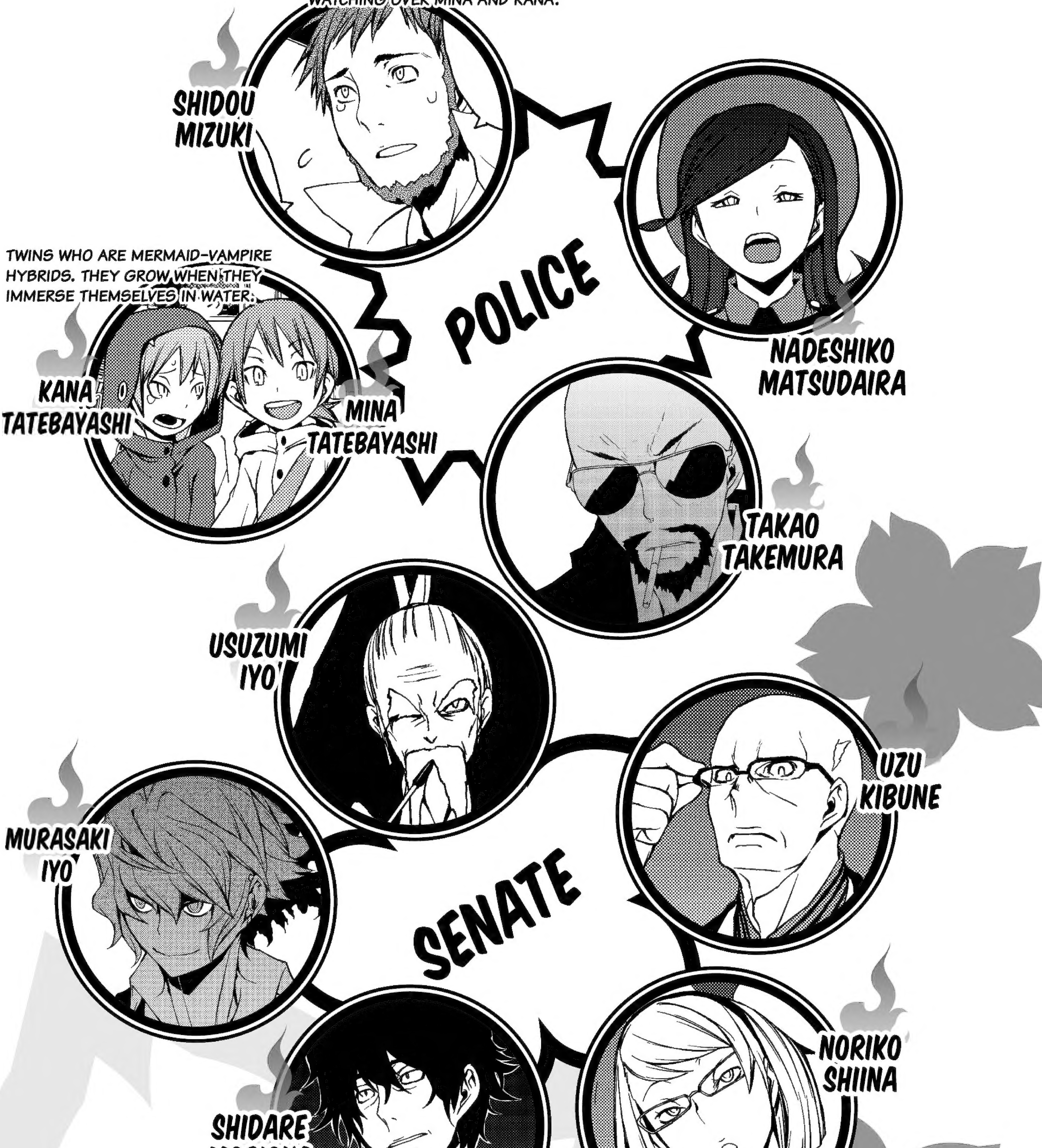
ZAKURO KURUMAKI

RIN'S FORMER MASTER AND A NECROMANCER, SHE ATTACKED SAKURASHIN IN ORDER TO TAKE BACK RIN BUT WAS THWARTED AND REFORMED.



RIN AZUMA

A JIANGSHI WHO WORKS AT A RAMEN RESTAURANT. IT SEEMS LIKE SHE'S ALWAYS SLACKING OFF, BUT SHE'S SURPRISINGLY DILIGENT. WAS KIDNAPPED BUT RETURNED SAFELY.


SHIDOU MIZUKI
NADESHIKO MATSUDAIRA
POLICE
KANA TATEBAYASHI
MINA TATEBAYASHI
TAKAO TAKEMURA
USUZUMI IYO
UZU KIBUNE
MURASAKI IYO
SENATE
NORIKO SHIINA
SHIDARE MORIOKA

HE IS A COP, BUT EVERYONE TENDS TO FORGET THAT FACT. HE IS BUSY WATCHING OVER MINA AND KANA.

TWINS WHO ARE MERMAID-VAMPIRE HYBRIDS. THEY GROW WHEN THEY IMMERSE THEMSELVES IN WATER.

OUTLINE

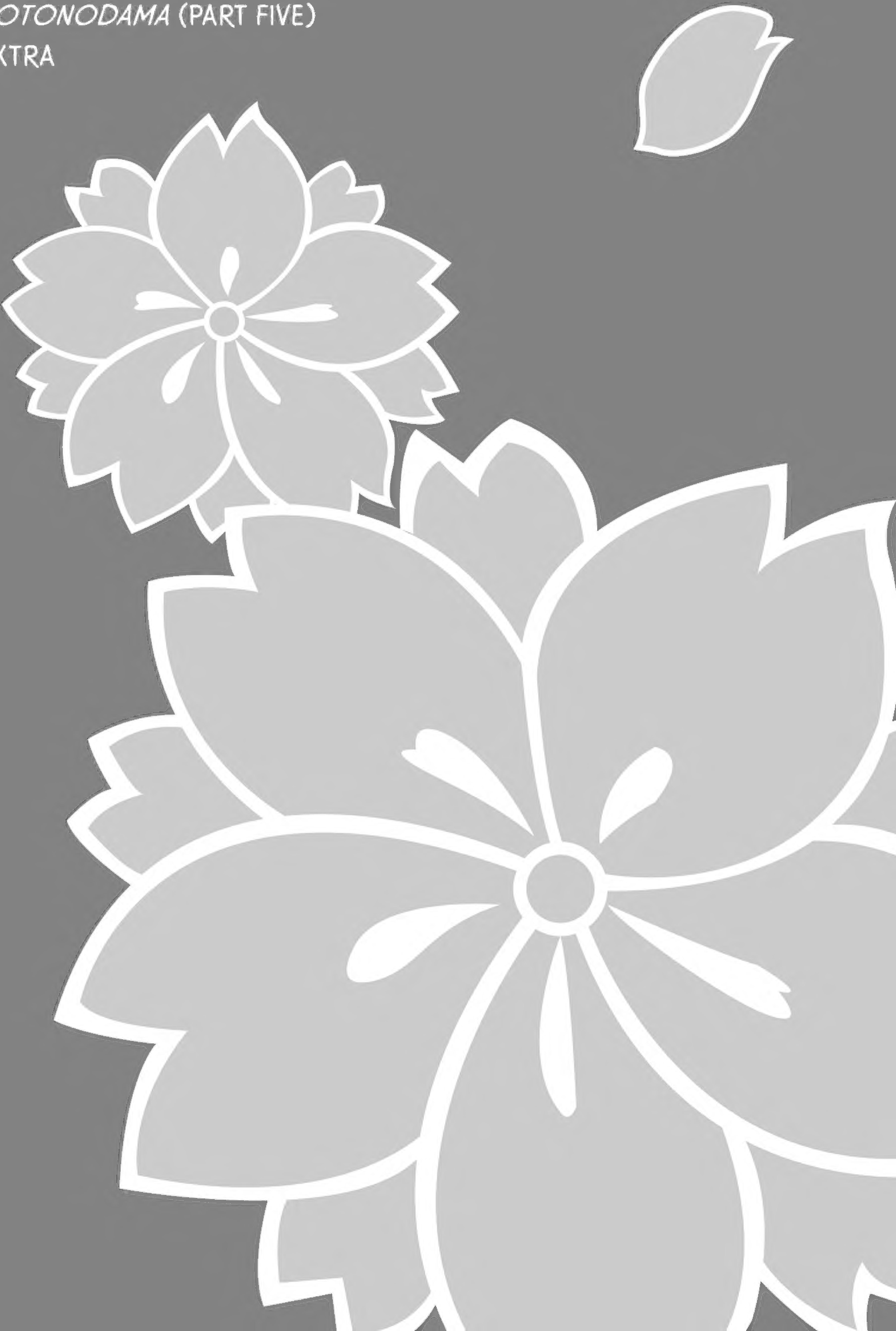
THE GANG IS SHOCKED TO DISCOVER THAT THE SEEMINGLY EMPTY-HEADED AO IS ACTUALLY FILLED TO THE BRIM WITH DANGER. IS THERE A SOLUTION TO THIS STICKY SITUATION?

YOZAKURA QUARTET

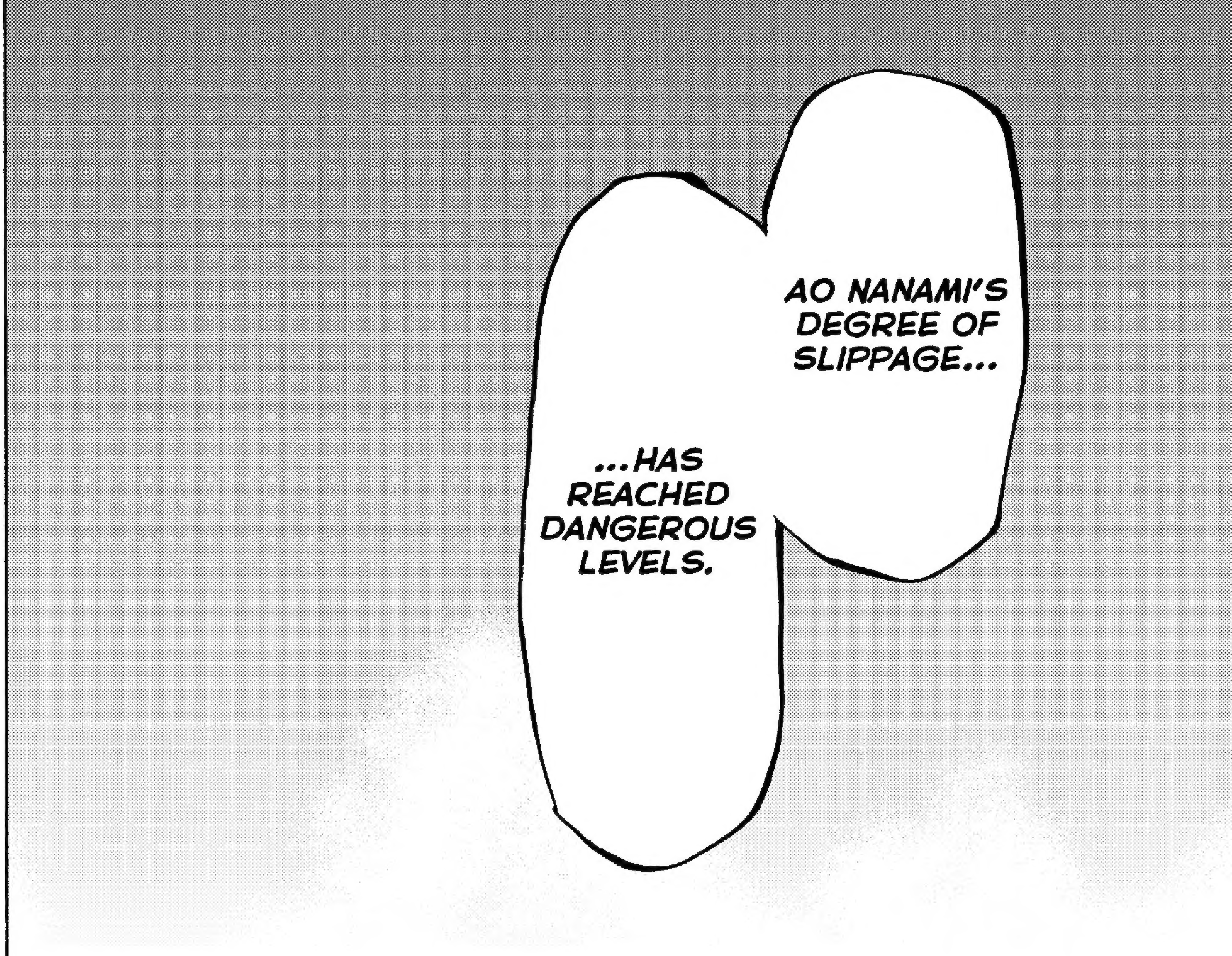
15

CONTENTS

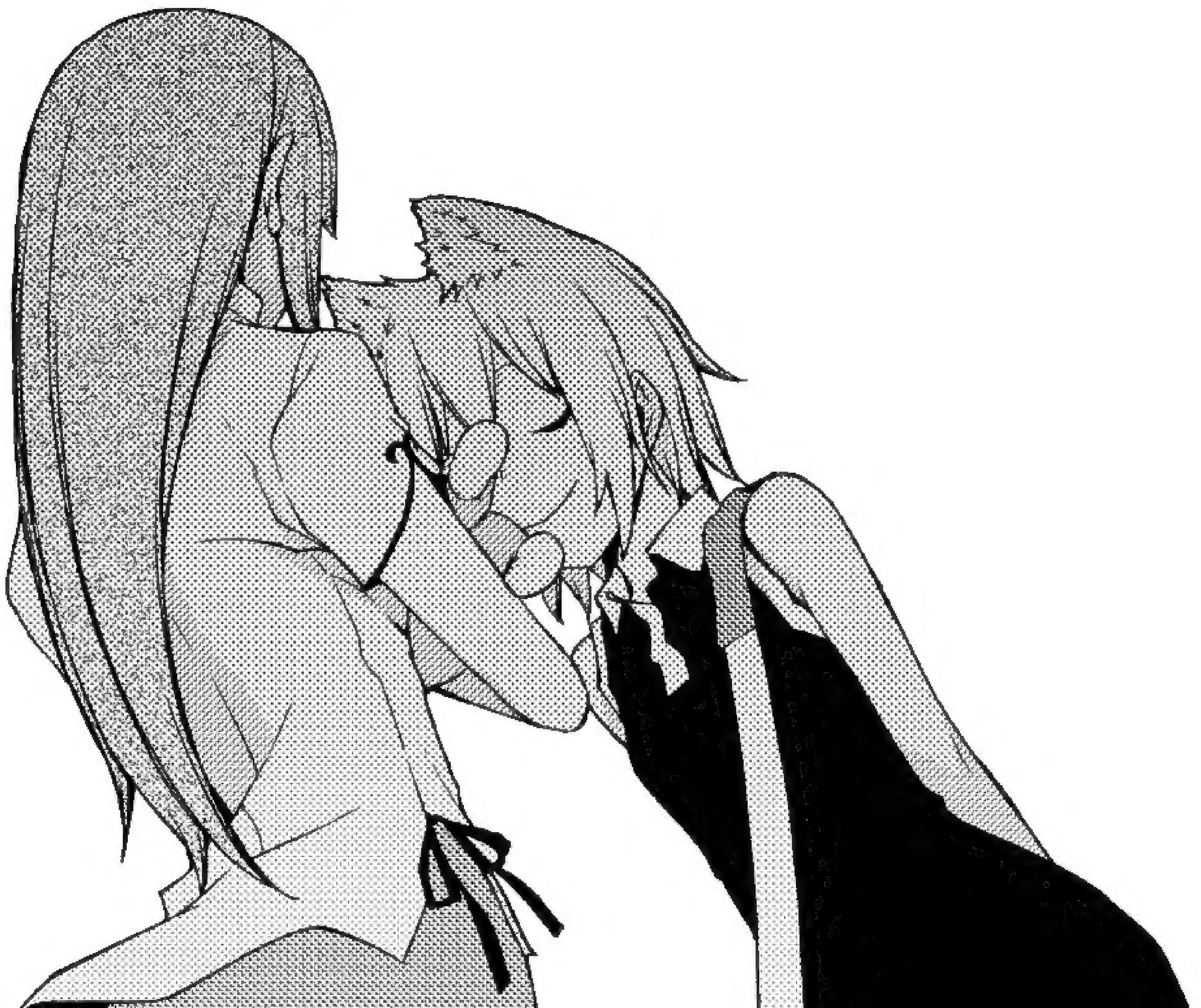
007 BLUE SKY (AFTER)
037 PARTING PATHS
067 *KOTONODAMA* (PART ONE)
091 *KOTONODAMA* (PART TWO)
113 *KOTONODAMA* (PART THREE)
139 *KOTONODAMA* (PART FOUR)
169 *KOTONODAMA* (PART FIVE)
201 EXTRA



WOWIE. SOMEONE SURE IS CRYING UP A STORM.
THERE, THERE.
おわ～ん おんおん
UWAAH! BUHHH!
HE JUST STARTED CRYING ALL OF A SUDDEN AND WON'T STOP. I'M NOT SURE WHAT'S WRONG.
...OKAY! LET ME ASK.
LAY YOUR WORRIES ON ME!
す…
SLIP
I'LL GET TO THE POINT.


AO NANAMI'S DEGREE OF SLIPPAGE...
...HAS REACHED DANGEROUS LEVELS.

#80 BLUE SKY (AFTER)



WHA...
HE WANTS TO EAT CRAB!
CRAB?
AO? THAT'S NOT...
THERE'S NO WAY...

...
NO... I GUESS THERE IS, HUH?
SHE USES HER POWER ALL THE TIME, SO I GUESS IT MAKES SENSE.
SO, WHAT SHOULD WE DO...
...TO AVOID THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO?

IT'S THE SAME AS WITH AKINA-KUN.
"DON'T USE YOUR POWER."
THAT'S THE ONLY OPTION.
WHAT IF YAE-SAN MAKES HER SOME RESTAINTS?
RESTRAINTS DON'T MAKE IT SO A PERSON CAN USE THEIR POWER WITHOUT ANY RISKS. THEY MERELY SUPPRESS THE USER'S POWER.
SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO USE HER POWER WITH THEM ON, SO IT'S THE SAME AS SELF-RESTRAINT, REALLY.
IT DOESN'T ACTUALLY SOLVE THE ISSUE.

WHAT IF...
...SHE HAD A SEAL PLACED ON HER LIKE ME?
IMPOSSIBLE.
THE SEAL WAS ONLY VIABLE IN YOUR CASE DUE TO THE DRAGON'S POWER.
HER BODY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT.
WELL...
カタ TAK
カタ TAK
...THERE ISN'T ANY IMMEDIATE DANGER.
す SLIP
SHE CAN LIVE A NORMAL LIFE AS LONG AS SHE DOESN'T USE HER POWER.
THAT MUCH IS CERTAIN.

WHETHER YOU DECIDE TO TELL HER OR NOT, AND HOW...
...IS SOMETHING I'LL LET YOU KIDS DECIDE. YOU'D PREFER THAT, WOULDN'T YOU?
...YES.
ALL RIGHT. SEE YOU.
THANKS A LOT, SHIINA-SAN. REALLY... THANK YOU.
SENATE

WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?
I MEAN, MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AREN'T SUPPOSED TO GET TOO INVOLVED WITH THIS TOWN...
WELL, THIS IS MY HOMETOWN, AFTER ALL.
AND IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE STRANGERS.
THAT'S PROBABLY WHY THEY SEND ME.
THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO THANK ME.
ガチャコ
KA-CHUNK
'ZAT SO.
BUT Y'KNOW,
CONSIDERING HOW OFTEN YOU COME AROUND, YOU MIGHT AS WELL BUILD A BRANCH HERE.
IT'S PRETTY FAR FROM THE SENATE, TOO.
...GOOD POINT.
I'LL TELL THE HIGHER-UPS.
キュ
TURN

CALL ME WHEN YOU FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO ABOUT AO.
I MIGHT HAVE TO UP THE FREQUENCY OF HER CHECKUPS, AFTER ALL.
...WELP.
ガチャ……
CLACK
SPIN
くるる
SPIN
るる……

WHY DOES IT ALWAYS HAVE TO BE AO?
FIRST GIN, NOW THIS...
SHE ALWAYS GETS THE SHORT END OF THE STICK...
FROM NOW ON, WE CAN'T LET HER USE HER POWER, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.
THAT'S ALL WE CAN DO, RIGHT?
YOU KNOW, AO HATED USING HER POWER UNTIL JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
YOU GUYS GOT INTO A BIG FIGHT OVER IT, TOO.

BUT LATELY,
SHE'S BEEN USING HER POWER WITHOUT HESITATION.
EVEN THOUGH SHE HATED IT THAT MUCH.
I THINK...
...THAT'S BECAUSE AO FOUND HER RESOLVE
SHE DECIDED TO DO EVERYTHING IN HER POWER...
...TO PROTECT EVERYONE AND STOP THE SEVEN PILLARS FROM BLOOMING.
DO YOU THINK...
...THAT IF WE TOLD HER NOT TO USE HER POWERS, EVEN WHEN THINGS GOT DICEY...
...SHE WOULDN'T ACTUALLY USE THEM?
...

...SHE WOULD.
OF COURSE SHE WOULD.
I MEAN... THIS IS AO WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.

AT ANY RATE,
SHIINA-SAN LEFT IT UP TO US AS TO WHETHER OR NOT TO TELL HER, BUT...
ポリ SCRIT
ポリ SCRIT
WHAT DO YOU GUYS WANNA DO?
I THINK...
TELL HER!
YEAH,
WE DEFINITELY SHOULD.
THAT SETTLES IT.
CAN YOU LEAVE THIS TO ME?
I WANNA BE THE ONE TO TELL HER.
ばた TAP
ばた TAP

I'M BAAAACK!
ぽよん
BOING
ERRANDS COMPLETE?
しーん
SILENCE
...?
AO...
WHY DON'T WE GO UP TOP FOR A BIT?

...I SEE.
I HAD A FEELING.
HUH?
YOU MEAN, YOU CAN TELL...
...THAT YOU'RE SLIPPING?
YEAH.
SLIPPING, OR RATHER...
...I FEEL KIND OF DETACHED FROM THE WORLD.
AND SOMETIMES, I SEE THINGS.
ONLY FAINTLY, THOUGH.
SEE THINGS?
LIKE WHAT?

IT'S FAINT.
VERY FAINT.
BUT I CAN SEE THE OTHER REALM...

PRESS
AO,
YOU'RE GONNA KEEP USING YOUR POWERS, AREN'T YOU?
YOU'LL SAVE EVERYONE WHEN WE'RE IN A PINCH,
STEAL THE SPOTLIGHT...
...AND THEN WE'LL STOP THE BLOOMING, AND EVERYONE WILL LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
BUT THERE'S NO POINT...
...IF YOU'RE NOT THERE, TOO, AO.

I WANNA STICK AROUND SO I CAN GROPE YOU, TOO,
SO I WON'T OVERDO IT.
...REALLY?
UH-HUH.
I'LL BE MORE DISCREET ABOUT HOW I USE MY POWER.
BUT YOU'LL STILL USE IT...
IF IT'LL HELP EVERYONE, THEN YEAH.
BUT DON'T WORRY. I'LL BE CAREFUL!
...
...M'KAY! I'VE DECIDED!
STAND
すっく
I WON'T HIDE ANYTHING FROM YOU, AO.
SO THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO READ MY HEART ANYMORE, IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT YOU HAVE TO USE YOUR POWER, EVEN A LITTLE...
...I PROMISE NOT TO HIDE ANYTHING FROM YOU!

I WON'T LIE, EITHER!
SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO READ MY HEART ANYMORE, AO!
I KNOW.
YOU'VE NEVER BEEN ONE TO LIE, KOTOHA-CHAN.
ALL DONE?
にょっき POP
GAH!
IRUKA'S ON DINNER DUTY, BUT I GUESS SHE MADE TOO MUCH.
WANNA EAT AT MY PLACE TONIGHT?
BUSTLE わら…
BUSTLE わら…
LET'S TAKE HER UP ON HER OFFER, KOTOHA-CHAN.
SURE, WHY NOT?
YOU GUYS FINISH TALKING?

YUP.
もち
SPRING
GOOD.
す,
SWIF
AKINA CAN'T USE TUNING ANYMORE, AND AO CAN'T USE HER POWERS, EITHER.
IT'S GOING TO BE A TOUGH FIGHT...
...SO LET'S PUMP OURSELVES UP!
THAT'S SO LIKE YOU.
LET'S DO IT!
YEAH.
SO WE'RE NOT DOWN EVEN A SINGLE PERSON IN TOWN AFTER WE STOP THE BLOOMING...
...LET'S DO OUR BEST.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

IF ANYTHING, WE'LL BE *UP* ONE.
GIN'S COMING BACK, TOO, REMEMBER?
KEEP IT TOGETHER, SISTER!
...YEAH!
OKAY, ALL TOGETHER ON THREE!
ONE, TWO...
FIGHT!
ファイト
LET'S GO!
えいえいおー
HIP HIP HOORAY!
GET SOME!
PICK ONE!

YES, YES. I UNDERSTAND ABOUT AO.
I'LL CALL YOU AGAIN.
SORRY, I'M ABOUT TO GO UNDERGROUND.
...HM? NOW? THAT'S RIGHT, THE SENATE.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
OF COURSE THE SENATE HAS A BASEMENT.
1
B108
チーン
DING
WHIRRR

AMONG HUNDREDS OF YEARS' WORTH OF SENATE RESEARCH, DATA REGARDING PARTICULARLY HERETICAL FIELDS, AS WELL AS THOSE THAT HAVE YET TO BE RESEARCHED...
...SLUMBER WITHIN THIS UNDERGROUND PASSAGE.
カッ
CLACK
カッ
CLACK
THE FARTHER YOU ADVANCE, THE MORE AREAS YOU FIND CONTAINING DANGEROUS DATA THAT'S BEEN SEALED AWAY. IT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A MOVIE.
カッ
CLACK
カッ
CLACK
AND IN THE DEEPEST DEPTHS, A FORGOTTEN PLACE NO ONE DARES TO GO...
カッ
CLACK
カッ
CLACK
...WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU CONSPIRING?
A VEEERY DEEP ONE.

DIRECTOR.
NOT EVERY DAY YOU COME DOWN HERE.
I TAKE IT I'M BUSTED?
WELL, IT WAS ABNORMAL. EVEN WITH MURASAKI-KUN BACK, RESEARCH IS PROGRESSING *TOO* QUICKLY.
WHEN I WENT DIGGING AS TO WHY, WHAT I FOUND SURPRISED ME.
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT YOU WERE WORKING WITH ENJIN IN SECRET?
ARE YOU THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS?
I DOUBT THE REPRESENTATIVE HAS REALIZED YET.
BUT I'M SURE IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL HE DOES.
I SEE.
SO, WHAT NOW?
GOOD QUESTION.

WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS YOU'RE PLANNING,
BUT I WON'T TELL THE HIGHER-UPS JUST YET.
YOU SURE ARE KIND, SHIINA-KUN.
BUT ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THAT?
...THAT JUST GOES TO SHOW HOW MUCH I TRUST YOU.
BEEP ピ
DEFINITIONS ASIDE, I KNOW YOU'RE NOT AN EVIL PERSON.
SO PLEASE DON'T LET ME DOWN,
...SHIDARE-SAN.
...I'LL DO MY BEST.

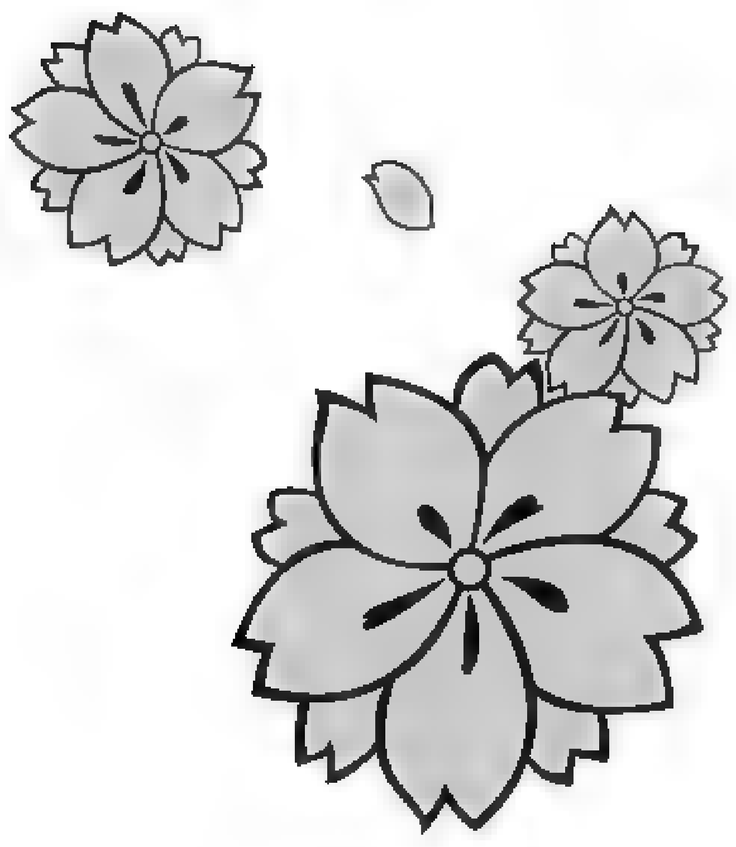
OH, RIGHT.
I RECEIVED A SUGGESTION THAT THE SENATE SHOULD BUILD A BRANCH IN SAKURASHIN...
...
...BUT THAT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION, RIGHT?
SCRIT ポリ
...YEAH.
WELL, I COULD GO FOR A GOOD CUP OF JOE RIGHT ABOUT NOW.
カツン CLACK
LET'S GO BACK TO THE LAB.
カツン CLACK
カツン… CLACK
THE SENATE'S LAST RESORT...
ERECT A DEMON BARRIER AROUND THE SEVEN PILLARS, CONTAINING EVERY DEMON IN SAKURASHIN...
BEEP ピッ

...AND CONVERT THEM ALL INTO ENERGY USED TO STOP THE BLOOMING.
EVERYTHING WITHIN THE BARRIER WILL VANISH WITHOUT A TRACE.
OF COURSE THEY CAN'T BUILD A BRANCH THERE.
GOOD GRIEF...
IN ORDER TO BUILD A HIGH CONCENTRATION OF DEMONS IN TOWN, THE SENATE HAS PROPAGATED THE IDEA THAT SAKURASHIN IS A GATHERING SPOT FOR DEMONS SINCE BYGONE DAYS.
THE SENATE CERTAINLY IS A FRIGHTENING ORGANIZATION.
カツン
CLACK
YOU KNOW IT'S BAD IF EVEN I THINK SO.
カツン
CLACK

AND THE CENTRAL PILLAR WHICH SUPPORTS THE SENATE ...
カッ
CLACK
カッ
CLACK
A DOOR OF HOPE THAT COULD LEAD TO SAVING HUMANITY.
NO ...
MORE LIKE PANDORA'S BOX. SOMETHING THAT SHOULD NEVER BE OPENED.
ゴ
GRR
ゴ
ゴ
HUMANS CANNOT HOPE TO CONTROL THIS.
THE VERY IDEA THAT THEY COULD TAME IT IS THE PINNACLE OF HUMAN ARROGANCE...
I SWEAR ...

SEAL
封
...HOW ABSOLUTELY FOOLISH.

80TH NIGHT BLUE SKY (AFTER) END



YOZAKURA QUARTET 15

A DIARY EXCHANGE?
NO WAY.
WHAAAT? WHY NOT, SHIINA-CHAN?!
SOUNDS LIKE A PAIN.
C'MON, IT'LL BE FUN!
YEAH! LET'S GIVE IT A TRY.
NOOOOT HAPPENING.

#81 PARTING PATHS

C'MON, WE'RE GONNA BE LATE.
歩行者自転車専用
JEEEEZ! SHIINA-CHAAAN!

WHY DO YOU WANT TO EXCHANGE DIARIES ALL OF A SUDDEN?
JUST FELT LIKE IT!
NO, THAT'S NOT ALL!
IT'LL BE LIKE A SYMBOL OF OUR FRIENDSHIP!
DOESN'T THAT SEEM KINDA NICE?
SO YOU DO JUST FEEL LIKE IT.
I MEAN... WE HAVE TO DECIDE WHAT WE'RE DOING AFTER HIGH SCHOOL SOON, RIGHT?
AND WE MIGHT ALL GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS, SO...
...I THOUGHT IT'D MAKE FOR A GOOD MEMORY.
...

PASS.
SHIINA-CHAAAN!
キ～ン DING
コ～ン DONG

NADESHIKOOO!
BUSTED ALREADY?
GET OVER HERE.
WE GO TO AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL, Y'KNOW.
YOU GET THEM FROM JUNIORS, DON'T YOU?
I'M NOT DOING IT. HERE, TAKE IT BACK.
GRRR... YOU COME UP WITH ANOTHER IDEA, NADESHIKO.
OKAY.

AAAND THIS IS YOUR CARD, SHIINA-CHAN!
5
WELL?
SUCK
ちゅ～
...THAT'S THE ONE.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU DID MAGIC, JURI.
MY DAD TAUGHT ME WHEN I WAS LITTLE. ALSO, MY LITTLE SISTER LIKED TRICKS...
YOU HAVE A SISTER?
HE, HE.
CRUMP
くしゃ
OKAY, ONE MORE TIME.
PICK A CARD.
SHK
さっ
SHK
さっ

GO AHEAD!
NONO
... THIS ONE.
FOILED AGAIN!
EVEN IF I PICKED THE MIDDLE, I WOULDN'T WRITE IN IT.
JOKER
FLIP
BOOO...
HEY, D'YA KNOW? OUR SCHOOL'S UNIFORM IS CHANGING NEXT YEAR.
HUH? IS IT GONNA HAVE A BLAZER?
YUP!
HUH...

OH, IT'S YAE AND HIME-CHIN.
BYE-BYE!
A BLAZER... THAT MIGHT BE NICE, TOO, HUH, SHIINA-CHAN?
I THINK I PREFER THE SAILOR UNIFORM.
NOT LIKE IT MATTERS FOR US, ANYWAY.
WE'LL HAVE GRADUATED BY THEN.
GRADUATION...
GRADUATION, HUH?
HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO AFTER HIGH SCHOOL, SHIINA-CHAN?
...
I'M GOING...
...TO LEAVE THIS TOWN.

HUH...?
I'M GOING TO COLLEGE OVERSEAS.
...I SEE.
DO YOU... ...NOT LIKE THIS TOWN, SHIINA-CHAN?
...
IT'S JUST SO... ...WARPED.
THERE ARE DEMONS, THE SEVEN PILLARS, AND IT'S A DEMONIC DESTINATION
IT'S LIKE SITTING IN A BIG CLAUSTROPHOBIC POT OF WEIRDNESS.

AND YET EVERYONE GOES ABOUT THEIR HAPPY LIVES AS IF THEY DON'T EVEN NOTICE.
IF YOU ASK ME WHETHER OR NOT I LIKE THIS TOWN...
...I GUESS...
...I'D HAVE TO SAY YES TO BOTH.
...I SEE.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, NADESHIKO?
I'M GOING TO THE POLICE ACADEMY.
IT'S THE FAMILY BUSINESS, AFTER ALL...
I SEE, I SEE...

GUESS WE'RE ALL GETTING SPLIT UP...
...ONCE WE GRADUATE, HUH?
専用
24

AHA!

YOO-HOO! SO THAT'S WHERE YOU WERE!
HAVE YOU EATEN LUNCH YET?
NO, I WAS ABOUT TO.
SIT
GREAT! LET'S EAT.
YOU'RE JUST GONNA TRY TO SLIP ME THE DIARY AGAIN, AREN'T YOU?
I WON'T DO THAT ANYMORE.
I GAVE UP...
ORIGINAL BREAD
105
Peach Tea
THAT WAS GREAT.

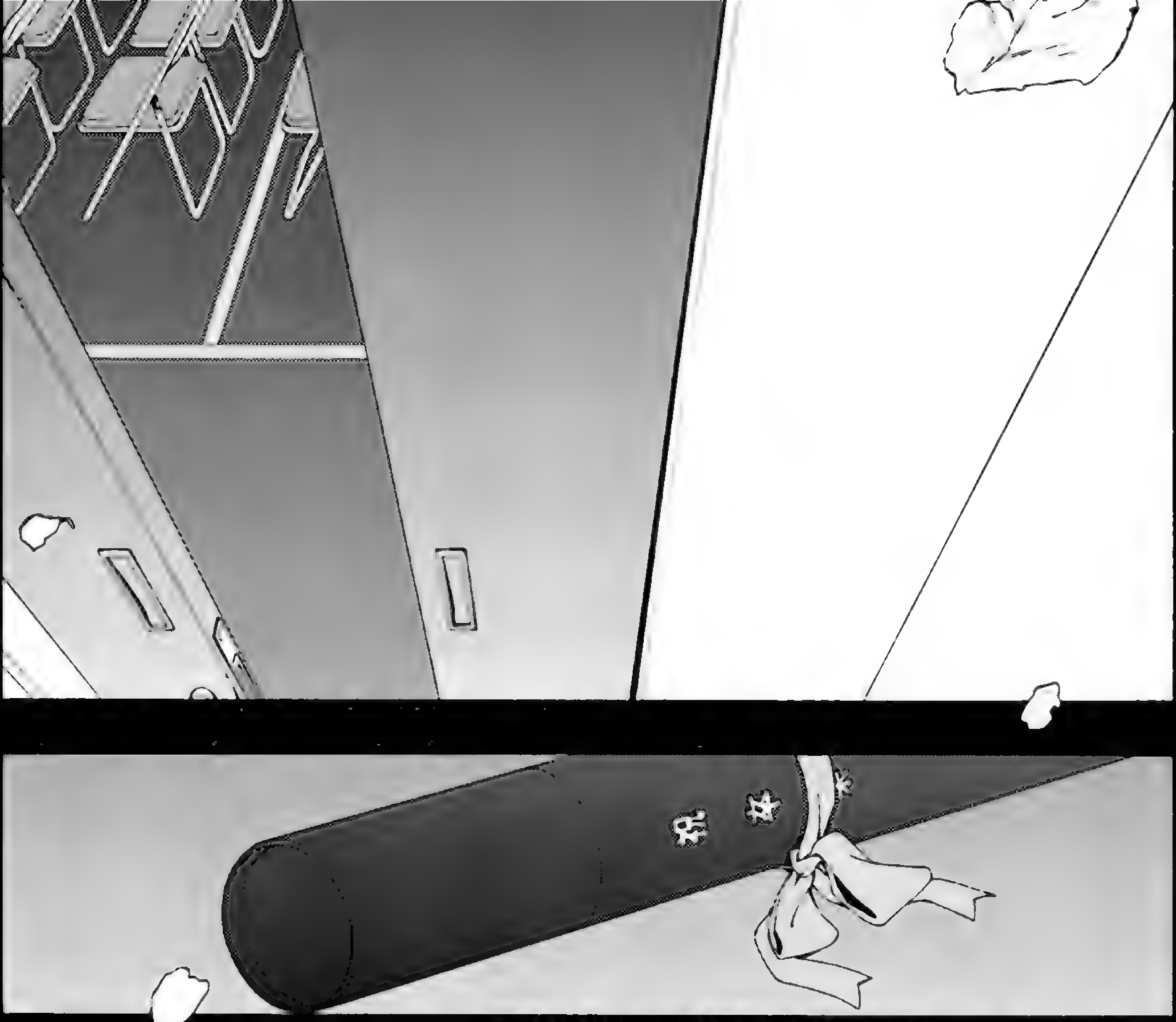
AAH... WHAT A NICE BREEZE.
YEAH. WHAT NICE WEATHER.
AND WHAT A "NICE TOWN," RIGHT?
YUP.
FRANKLY, I HATE THIS TOWN.
OH, SHE'S BEING FRANK NOW.

THIS TOWN HAS HIT A BRICK WALL.
IT'S STAGNANT.
THAT'S WHY I'M LEAVING.
BUT I BET...
...YOU GUYS THINK THIS IS JUST THE GREATEST TOWN EVER, DON'T YOU?
ぱたん
FLOP
NAH.
NOT REALLY.
OH?

I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT IT BEING A DEAD END.
I MEAN, THAT'S JUST HOW THIS TOWN IS.
THERE'S THE HIIZUMI CLAN'S DUTY, TOO, SO IT'LL ALWAYS HAVE ITS SHARE OF DARKNESS.
PLUS THE OCCASIONAL DEMON COMMOTION, BUT THAT GOES FOR HUMANS, TOO.
THAT BUMPINESS THAT MAKES THIS TOWN SO IRREGULAR, OR "WARPED," AS YOU PUT IT, SHIINA-CHAN...
I THINK THAT'S TRUE.
BUT I STILL LOVE THIS TOWN, EVEN WITH ALL ITS WEIRDNESS.
I GREW UP HERE, AFTER ALL.
SO...

...BEFORE YOU LEAVE...
...I WANT YOU TO COME TO LOVE THIS TOWN, TOO, SHIINA-CHAN.
...
...
SHIINA-CHAN?

I THINK...
...THAT MIGHT BE IMPOSSIBLE.
ざ
SKF
IT'S NOT IN MY NATURE TO LIKE SOMETHING FOR ITS ODDITIES.
I LIKE THINGS THAT ARE RELIABLE AND ORDERLY.
I CAN'T STAND LEAVING THINGS INCOMPLETE.



Tube: Congratulations, Graduate

WOW... I CAN'T BELIEVE WE START COLLEGE TODAY.
I'M GETTING NERVOUS.
EASY, GIRL.
I'M SURPRISED YOUR PARENTS LET YOU GO TO A NORMAL UNIVERSITY, NADESHIKO.
THEY SAID I SHOULD EXPAND MY HORIZONS.
THOUGH I'LL ALSO BE GOING TO THE POLICE ACADEMY HALF THE WEEK.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE GONNA BE BUSY.
YEAH, BUT I HAVE TO DO MY BEST TO ENJOY THE CAMPUS LIFE!
A NEW CHAPTER IN LIFE, HUH...
I WONDER HOW SHIINA-CHAN'S DOING OVER THERE...

MORNING.
COLLEGE GIRL
女子大生
YOU'RE FLASHING THE GOODS.
GET UP ALREADY.
SHI-SHI-SHIINA...
SHINA-CHIKU*?
SHIINA-CHAN?!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE LEAVING TOWN?!
I DID.
I'M LIVING ON MY OWN NOW.
REALLY?!

*A type of fermented bamboo shoots.

I DON'T THINK I CAN GROW TO LIKE EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS TOWN LIKE YOU GUYS.
BUT JUST NAMING ITS FLAWS AND LEAVING WITHOUT EVEN COMING UP WITH A SOLUTION...
...ISN'T IN MY NATURE, EITHER.
THAT'S WHY, I'M GOING TO CHANGE THIS TOWN.
JURI'S BECOMING A DOCTOR...
...AND NADESHIKO'S BECOMING A POLICE OFFICER.
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ALL WORKING TO BETTER THIS TOWN IN SOME WAY.
WE'RE GONNA BE LATE.

FRESHMEN JOINT GUIDANCE HALL
WHAT'RE YOU AIMING TO BE, THEN, SHIINA-CHAN?
……
MMM… WELL, I AM IN THE LAW DEPARTMENT.
……
I GUESS I'LL BECOME A POLITICIAN OR SOMETHING…
NEXT, I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE OUR GUEST LECTURER.
のそ
SCRUFF
HI THERE.
I'M SHIDARE FROM THE SENATE.

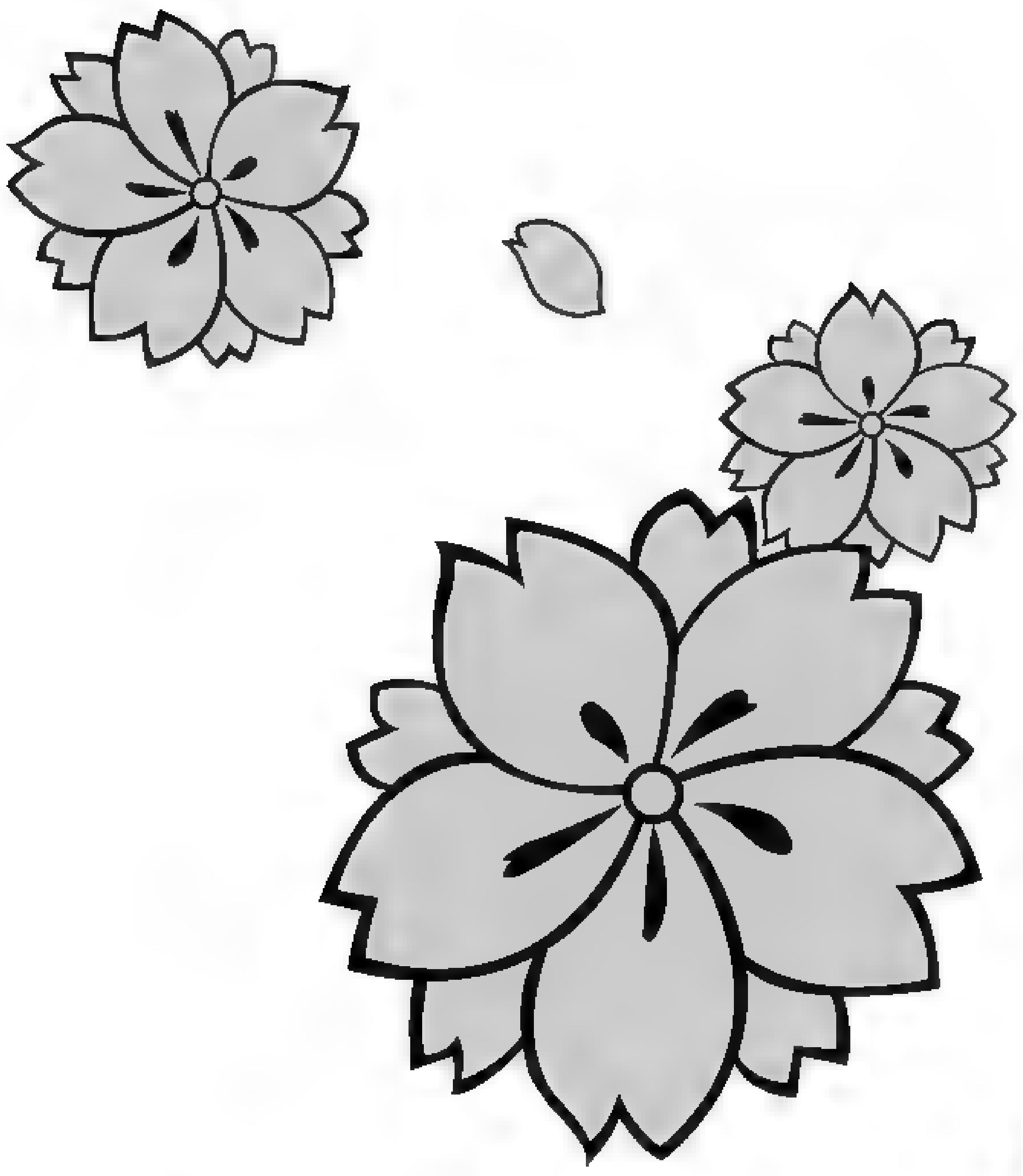
I'VE DECIDED.
I'M JOINING THE SENATE...
I'LL SWITCH TO THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT.
THAT WAS QUICK!
AAH, HE'S TALKING ABOUT THE ORIENTATION.
I NEED TO TAKE NOTES.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
HERE, USE THIS.
TOOL'S NOTE RULED
80 SHEEIS
DIARY EXCHANGE
#001
AS 横罫
LITE N29
Made in Japan
...

WELL, I'LL HANG ONTO IT. FOR NOW...
YAAAY!
わーー!!
DON'T GET MAD AT ME IF IT ENDS UP STUCK ON MY TURN BECAUSE I BARELY WRITE IN IT, OKAY?
WE WON'T!

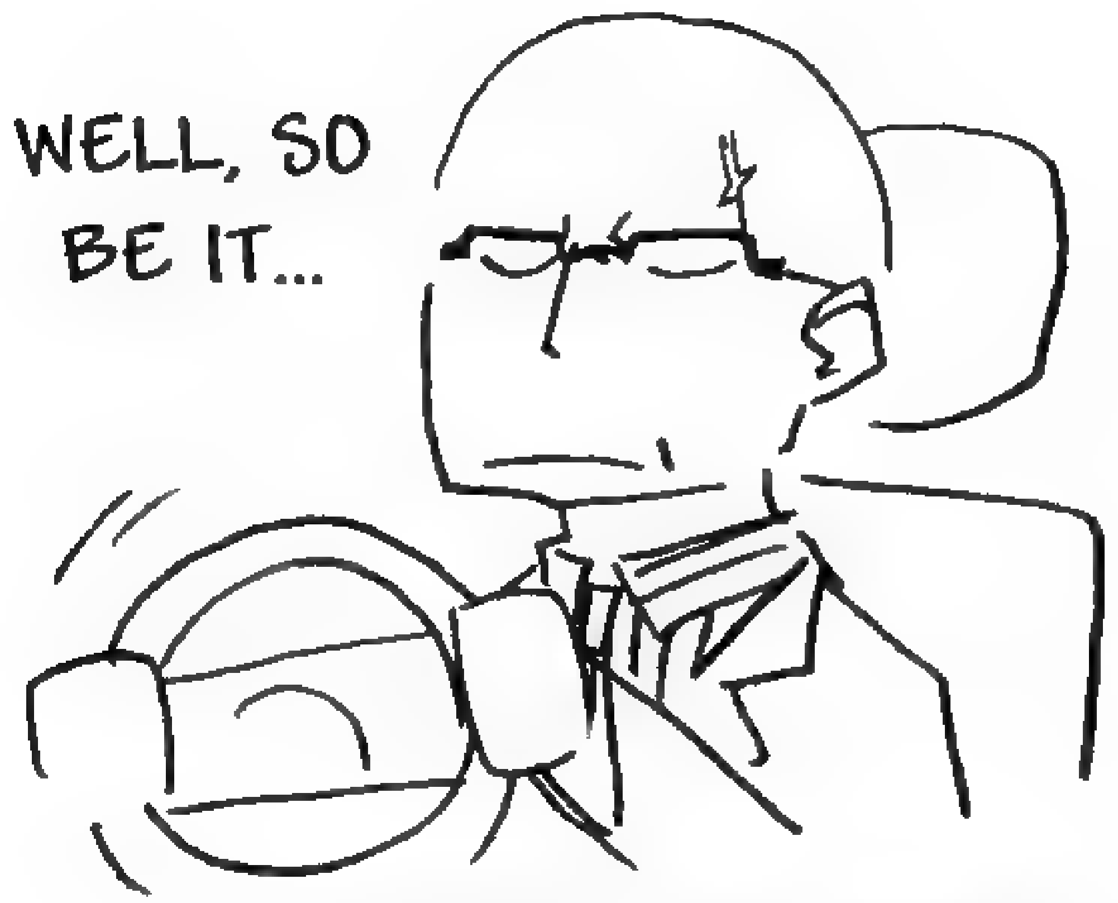
BAAAH!
THUD
YOU GUYS ARE SO SLOW! WRITE IN IT EVERY DAY!
WANNA DO TWO WHOLE CYCLES PER WEEK!
DRUNK DRUNK
WEE HIC
WE ROPED THE WRONG GAL INTO THIS...
AND TRY NOT TO MAKE IT ABOUT WORK! WRITE ABOUT GOOD PLACES TO EAT AND STUFF!
'KAAAY.
SHOULDN'T YOU BE GETTING BACK TO THE SENATE, SHIINA-CHAN?
...OH, RIGHT.
I CAME IN THE SENATE'S CAR.
CLUNK
YET YOU DECIDED TO DRINK.
NADESHIKOOO! GIMME A RIDE!
OFF DUTY
I DRANK, TOO.

AND OF COURSE,
I'M DRINKING, TOO!
WALKING IT IS!
UUUGH... WALK ME TO THE TAXI RANK, WILL YOU?
YOU GONNA BE OKAY?
ブゥーン
VRUM
パパー…
BEEP BEEEEP
ガァッ
SKRR
ブゥゥ…
VRUM
パー…
BEEEEP
ぱっ
FLASH

ACTUALLY, I THINK I'LL REST AT YOUR PLACE FOR A BIT, JURI...
SURE.
ME, TOO!
THE BEDS ARE FOR PATIENTS, THOUGH.
THEN I'LL SLEEP ON THE COUCH...
JEEZ, YOU'LL NEVER GET MARRIED LIKE THIS...



YOZAKURA
QUARTET 15


WELL, SO BE IT...

PROFESSOR UZU DROVE THE CAR BACK.

MMM... BECAUSE I PREFER THE SAILOR UNIFORM.
THAT'S ALL, I GUESS.
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE GOING TO HIGH SCHOOL OUT OF TOWN?
C'MON, LET'S GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL!
EASY, TOUKA.
WE'LL SEE HER AT THE OFFICE EVERY DAY, ANYWAY.
YEAH. WE LIVE NEAR EACH OTHER, TOO.
JEEEEZ. YOU'RE BOTH SO DRY!
EIN, ZWEI, DREI?
DON'T PLAY IT OFF WITH GERMAN!

#82 *KOTONODAMA* (PART ONE)

HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA KEEP READING, KOTOHA-CHAN?
JUST A FEEEW MORE PAGES.
YOU'VE BEEN READING A LOT LATELY, HUH?
もぞ
SLINK
DON'T SAY IT LIKE I'VE PICKED UP DRINKING.
I JUST BORROWED A BUNCH OF RARE BOOKS FROM LILA-SAN.
YOU END UP OVER-SLEEPING BECAUSE YOU STAY UP ALL NIGHT READING.
OH, BY THE WAY. WHY HAVE I WOKEN UP LATELY TO FIND YOU NAKED?
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU... WAIT, WHAT?!
ホニ ホニ
GROPE GROPE
HUH? DID YOU PUT ON SOME WEIGHT, KOTOHA-CHAN?
NO WAAAY. AND I'VE BEEN JOGGING LATELY, TOO.
Z Z Z ...
HEY, DON'T FALL ASLEEP THERE!
YOU'RE LIKE A GIANT HOT WATER BOTTLE!
I'M GONNA HAVE TO SLEEP NAKED AGAIN!

チュン CHUN
チュン CHUN
デレ DERE
チュン CHUN
DERE CHUN ...?
AAAND GOAL!
ピッ BEEP
MORNII-ING!
OH, HEY!
ほっ HUFF
ほっ HUFF
たっ TAP
たか TMP
たーん TMP
I'LL RUN AROUND THE THIRD BLOCK.
SURE.
YOU'RE FAST, HIME-CHAN.
I NEEDED TO PATROL, ANYWAY.
IT'S RARE TO SEE YOU OUT RUNNING, KOTOHA.
I'VE BEEN RUNNING ON THE WEEKENDS LATELY.
NEED TO BUILD MY STAMINA.
REALLY, I'M JUST TRYING TO LOSE WEIGHT.
ぬぐ STRIP

SOAKED
ずし…
…
SHUD
THERE IT IS! THE "I WAS WEARING MY WEIGHTED TRAINING CLOTHES, BUT NOW IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS" MODE!
WELL, WHILE WE'RE AT IT, LET'S SPAR, KOTOHA!
WHAAA? NO WAY. I'M GONNA READ NOW.
これ
THIS HERE.
I HAVEN'T EVEN HAD BREAKFAST YET, EITHER.
JUST TO BUILD UP AN APPETITE?
NOPE.
C'MON! YOU'RE ALWAYS READING!
YOU WON'T GET ANY STRONGER UNLESS YOU TRAIN!
I AM TRAINING.
...BY THE WAY, AREN'T MIDTERMS TOON?
MY SCHOOL ALREADY HAD OURS.
OH?
ろろろ
VRRR

MORNING, EARLY BIRDS.
THUD
バタン。
GOOD MORNING!
I THOUGHT ABOUT MAILING THIS OVER, BUT PERFECT TIMING.
HERE.
ジャキーン
SHING
AAH! WHAT'S THIS?!
IT'S A BOOSTER FOR SATORI POWER.
IT WILL HELP YOU USE YOUR POWER WITH LESS FATIGUE.
にゃー
NYAAAH!
I FIGURE YOU'LL PROBABLY USE YOUR POWERS ANYWAY, SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL WEAR THOSE TO LESSEN THE STRESS ON YOUR BODY.
USE IT WHEN NECESSARY.
THANKS, SHIINA-SAN!
THESE ARE CUTE!
ほくほく
CHEERY

BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE YAE-SAN MAKE THE FINE ADJUSTMENTS.
SHE'S THE EXPERT ON RESTRAINTS, AFTER ALL.
ギュッ
VROOM
OKAY! I'LL GO PAY HER A VISIT NOW!
SHE SHOULD BE AT THE CHURCH, SINCE IT'S SUNDAY.
DON'T TRIP NOW!
I'LL BE BACK IN A BIT!
た、た
TAP
TAP
...NOW, HOW ABOUT THAT SPARRING?!
I SAID NO! THERE'LL BE TOO MUCH COLLATERAL DAMAGE, ANYWAY.
WE COULD HAVE YAE-SAN MAKE A BARRIER.
SHE'S IN THE MIDDLE OF CHURCH SERVICE.
活相談事務所
...
HMM.
MAYBE YOU CAN PAY ME BACK FOR THE BOOSTER, THEN.
?

Sign: Life Counseling Office

DO YOU FEEL ANY DISCOMFORT?
I'M FINE.
WHAT IS THIS?
EARS...?
JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING I MADE BASED ON THE RESEARCH I CONDUCTED ON THE SATORI POWER
TAK カタ
TAK カタ
WELL, IT'D BE EASIER TO HAVE YOU EXPERIENCE IT FIRST-HAND.
HERE WE GO.
シュウ
ERG...
ウ
SHOOO
ウ
ウ

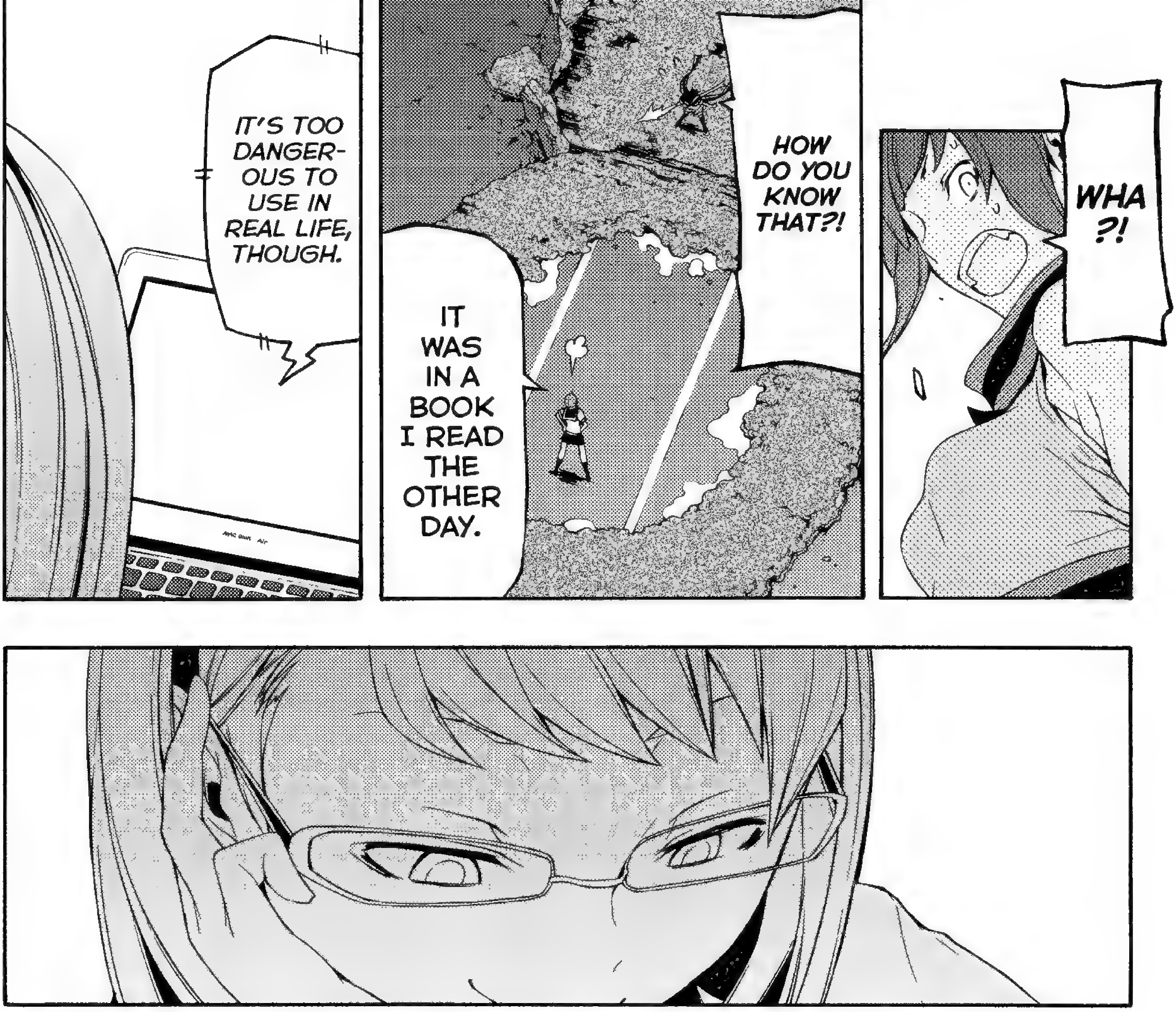
SHOO
SHOO
SHOO
OOOH.
SHOO
IS THIS... VIRTUAL REALITY?
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M USING THE SATORI'S POWER OF "CONVEYING" TO SHOW IT TO YOU.
AND...
BEEP

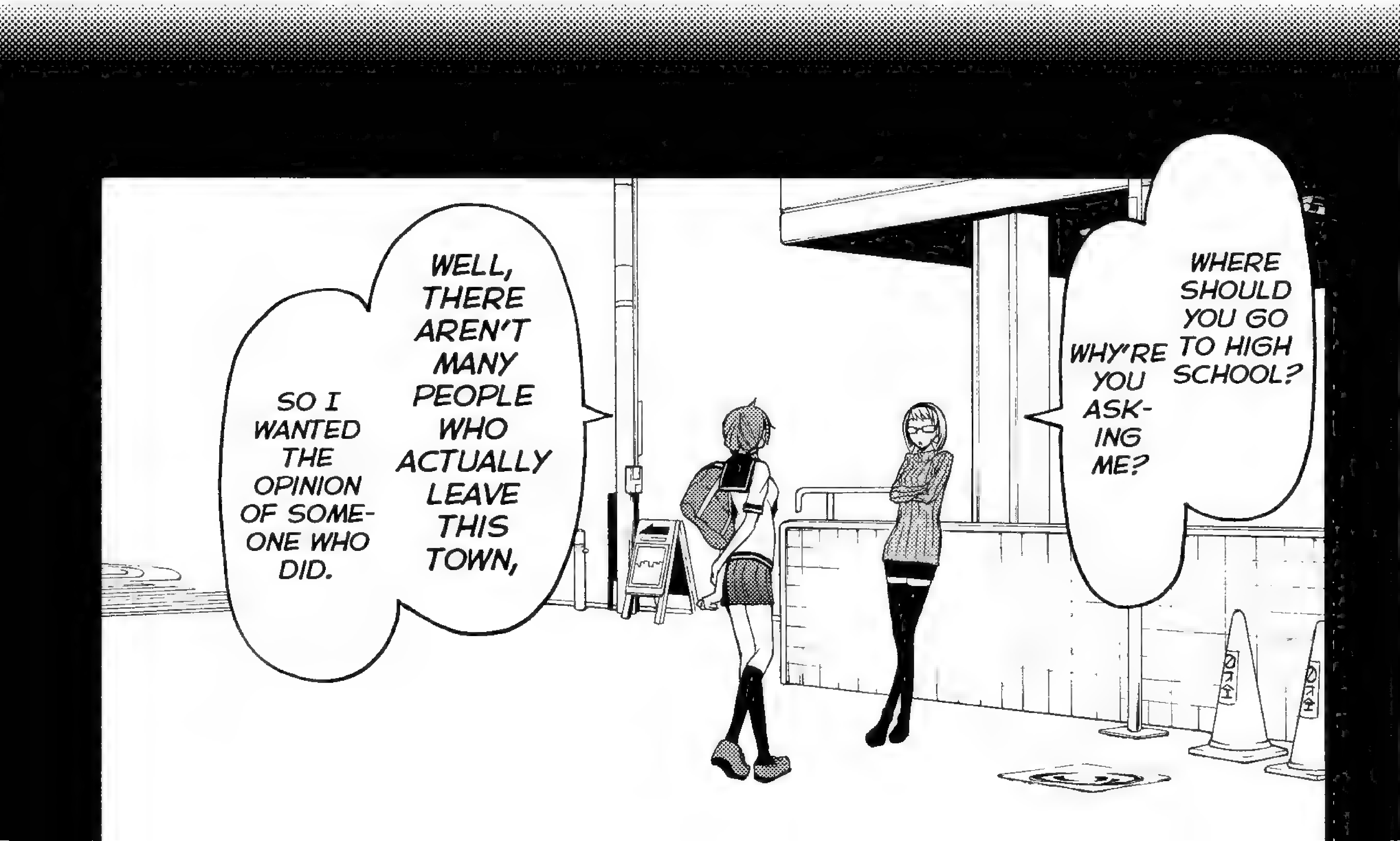
...I CAN DO THINGS LIKE THIS, TOO.
ヒュウ
FWOO
WHOA!
YOU CAN SPAR YOUR HEARTS OUT IN THERE. YOU'RE NOT ACTUALLY MOVING, SO IT WON'T TRAIN YOUR PHYSICAL BODY, BUT YOU CAN AT LEAST DO MOCK BATTLES.
I GETCHA!
MMM... WELL, AS LONG AS IT DOESN'T ACTUALLY TIRE ME OUT.
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN DOING ANY STRENGTH TRAINING, RIGHT, KOTOHA? I MUST BE WAY STRONGER AT THIS POINT!
ぐぐ
ぐにに
STRETCH STRETCH
YEAH, YEAH. LET'S JUST GET STARTED.

WOW, I CAN EVEN USE THE DRAGON SPEAR.
シュウウゥゥ
SSSHH
LOOKS LIKE I CAN USE *KOTODAMA*, TOO.
SHORTCUT.
BO STAFF!
ポヒュ
PWOOF
うぉー
WOOOH!
ドカ
THNK
バキ
CRACK
TRAIN TO GET STRONGER, HUH?
HER STRENGTH DOESN'T COME FROM SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

FORM 18...
くるくる
SPIN SPIN
BABY SPIDER!
CHNK
WALL, WALL... NOPE.
BOOM
THUD
THAT AIN'T GONNA WORK!
THUD
THUD
FOLLOWED BY FORM 19...
CHNK
GIANT SPIDER!

R
G
C'MON! I KNOW THIS IS VIRTUAL REALITY, BUT THAT'S TAKING IT A BIT FAR...
AAH, JEEZ...
UMM, ASPHALT...?
R
LET'S SEE...
FRRRR
!
CHLOROETHYLENE!
ポン
POOF
HYDROGEN CHLORIDE!
POOF
ポン
ALONG WITH IRON CHLORIDE!
ポン
POOF
TAKE CHLORIDE...
...AND SHOWER IT WITH THE SUMMER SUN'S UV RAYS!
ポン
POOF
SHINE
PUT IT ALL TOGETHER, AND...
ASPHALT SOLVENT,
TRICHLOROETHANE!


WHA?!
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?!
IT WAS IN A BOOK I READ THE OTHER DAY.
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO USE IN REAL LIFE, THOUGH.


WHERE SHOULD YOU GO TO HIGH SCHOOL?
WHY'RE YOU ASKING ME?
WELL, THERE AREN'T MANY PEOPLE WHO ACTUALLY LEAVE THIS TOWN,
SO I WANTED THE OPINION OF SOMEONE WHO DID.

I'M WONDERING WHAT I SHOULD DO TO GET STRONGER FOR THIS TOWN.
STRONGER, HUH?
KOTOHA.
WHAT ARE YOU?
...HUH?
WHAT AM I?
A KOTODAMA USER...
RIGHT.
バス
IN THAT CASE, YOU SHOULD GO OUT AND LEARN.
MEET PEOPLE.
READ BOOKS.
THAT'S HOW KOTODAMA USERS GET STRONGER.

IT'S YOUR KNOWLEDGE THAT WILL STRENGTHEN THE TOWN.
FOR NOW, LEAVE THE TOWN TO US. GO OUT AND SEE THE WORLD.
I DID TELL HER SOMETHING LIKE THAT, DIDN'T I?
HELLO...
IS HIME-SAN HERE?
SHE IS.
WHAT'S UP?
フラ SWAY
フラ SWAY
IT'S TIME FOR BREAKFAST, SO I CAME TO GET HER.
TOUKA-SAN SAID WE CAN'T EAT UNTIL EVERYONE IS AT THE TABLE...
OKAY.

THAT SAID, IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THEY'LL BE DONE ANYTIME SOON.
UWOOOH!
I'M HUNGRY...
WANNA HOP IN AND STOP THEM?
HUH?
TAK カタ
IT'D BE BORING TO JUST SEND YOU IN AS IS, THOUGH...
カタ TAK
LA-LA-DA!
GRR
ゴ
GRR
GRR
ゴ
HUP!
MMM...
PHEW...
ふ
YOU'VE GOTTEN STRONGER, KOTOHA...
FU, FU, FU... I HAVEN'T JUST BEEN EATING AND SLEEPING ALL DAY, Y'KNOW.
TODAY, I'LL SETTLE THE SCORE FOR—
HIME-SAAAN!
HIME-SAAAN!
HUH? IRUKA?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING...

FOOM
ぬ
CREEP
IT'S TIME FOR BREAKFAST.
AAAAH!
CONSIDER HER THE LAST BOSS.
FINISH UP YOUR PRACTICE WITH THIS.
...ALL RIGHT.
BZT
MAYBE I'LL TRY BUSTING THAT OUT.
HM?
MY NEW WAY...
...TO USE KOTODAMA.
BZT
BZT

お
BREAK-FAAAAST!
お
WOOOO
お
HERE I GO, MY NEW SPECIAL MOVE...
お
"FORK"...
BZT
BZT
HYAH ?!
JOLT
?
?

THUD
どさっ
...SHII-NA-SAN,
DID A RAT SNEAK INTO THE TRUCK?
HUH? A RAT?
GROPE
GROPE
WHAM
AGH!
NEVERMIND. I CAUGHT IT.
WHAT A HUGE RAT...
WHACK
BONK
OW!
ARGH!
MEEEE
MEEEE
MEE
MEEEE

GUESS MY NEW MOVE WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR ANOTHER TIME...
BREAK-FAST...
LET'S HURRY HOME.
YUP, YUP.
THANKS, KOTOHA!
NO PROB!
TAK
TAK
VEEE
ALL DONE.
HERE, TAKE THIS.
HUH?
THIS IS...
EMPLOYEE ID CARD
PASS
ID No.
SENATE
KoToHA ISoNE
下記の者を当社の社員であることを証明する
A PASS TO THE SENATE.
YOU CAN GET IN AND OUT ANYTIME WITH THAT.
WH-WHAT?! ARE YOU SURE IT'S COOL TO JUST HAND THESE OUT?

I'M SCOUTING YOU.
WHY DON'T YOU JOIN THE SENATE AFTER YOU GRADUATE?
JUST KIDDING.
THE OFFICE IS A BETTER FIT FOR YOU.
TIME TO GO.
ズッ
STAGGER
I DON'T REALLY NEED THIS...
YOU'VE ONLY BEEN TO THE MEETING ROOM ON THE TOP FLOOR, RIGHT?
THE MIDDLE FLOOR CONTAINS THE WORLD'S...
...LARGEST LIBRARY, YOU KNOW.
!
SHE GETS STRONGER THE MORE SHE READS.
バタン
THUD

A KOTODAMA USER WITH BIBLIOMANIA...
KA-THUNK
ガッガッ
VRUM
ブルルン
TALK ABOUT A LUCKY COMBINATION.
VRRR
るるる...
...MAYBE I'LL CHECK IT OUT.

82ND NIGHT *KOTONODAMA* (PART ONE) END

YOZAKURA QUARTET 15

DON'T GO HANDING OUT SENATE PASSES!
WAAAH!

#82 KOTONODAMA (PART TWO)

DROVE
ぞろ
DROVE
ぞろ
OH!
RIN-CHAAAN! ZAKURO-CHAAAN!
MORNING, AO-CHAN!
IS THE SERVICE OVER?
UH-HUH.
WHAT ARE YOU WEARING, AO...?
EARS!
HOLD ON... HOW MANY IS THAT TOTAL?!
DO YOU NEED THAT MANY?

YOU GO TO CHURCH, TOO, ZAKURO-CHAN?
IN A CHINESE DRESS...
YES, SINCE LAST MONTH.
AMEN AND RAMEN SOUND SIMILAR, AFTER ALL...
YOU'RE ASKING FOR DIVINE PUNISHMENT!
YAE-SAAAN!
OH, HOW PRECIOUS.
HELLO THERE.
WHAT'S WITH THE EARS?
EVERYONE ASKS...
BLAH, BLAH, BLAH.
AAH. I GETCHA.
COME ON BACK SO I CAN MAKE ADJUSTMENTS.
ポキポキ
CRACK CRACK
YAE'S ROOM
ALWAYS KNOCK!

BEARS GALORE, AS PER USUAL...
HAVE A SEAT.
LET'S SEE. TOOLS...
AHA.
OKAY, LET ME DO SOME TWEAK–
HUH?! WHERE DID SHE...
AH! THERE YOU ARE!
BUSTED.
ASSIMILATION
I WON'T TAKE A LOOK IF YOU KEEP MESSING AROUND.
NOOO! I'M SORRY.

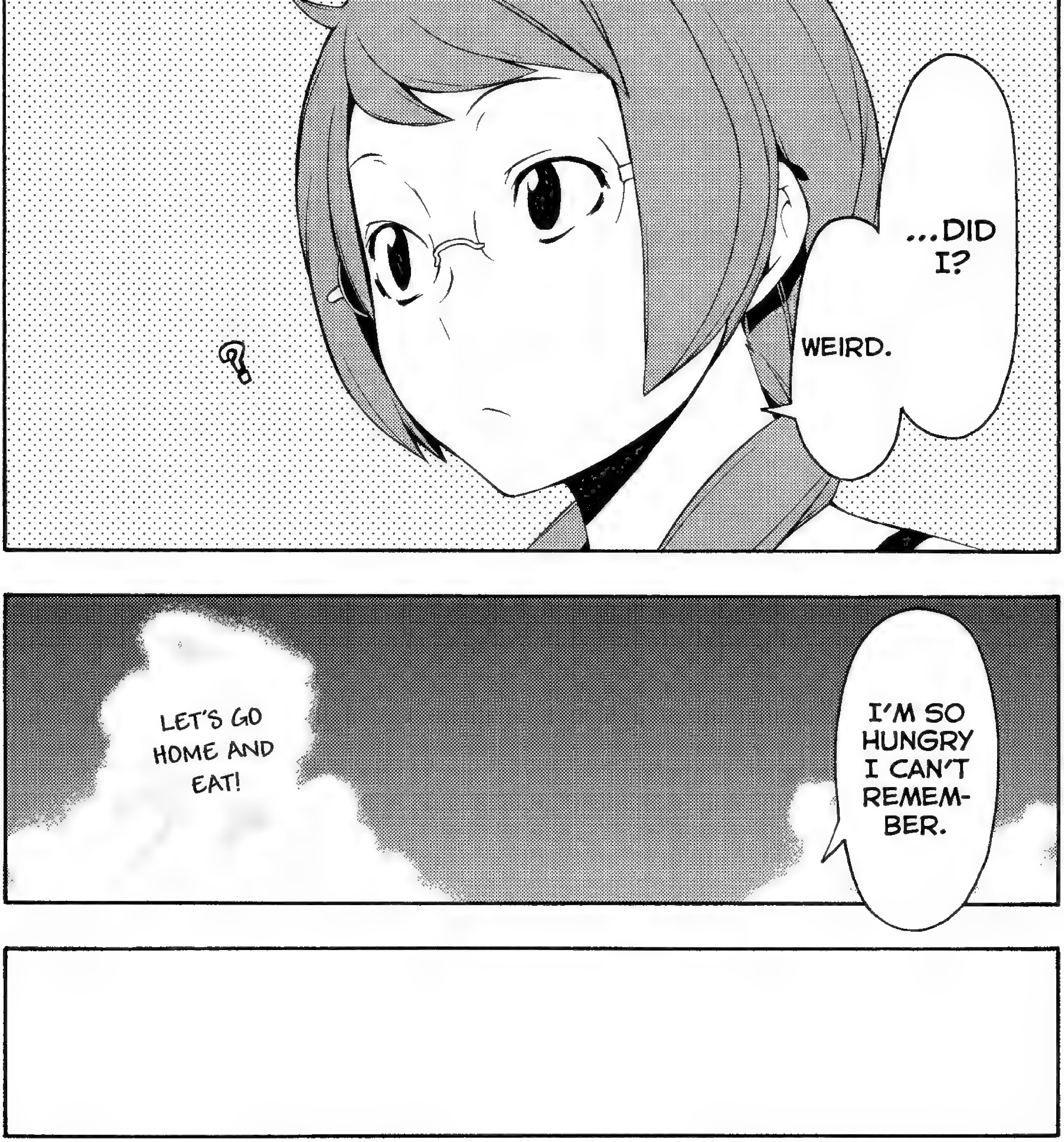
HRM...
WHAT'S UP?
I'M JUST KINDA SURPRISED SHIINA-SAN MADE THESE FOR ME.
I'D SAY SHE'S PRETTY COOPERATIVE, WOULDN'T YOU?
FOR A SENATE MEMBER.
THAT'S TRUE.
IT'S JUST, THE FACT THAT SHE TOOK PREVENTATIVE MEASURES INSTEAD OF WAITING UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENED...
...MADE ME THINK SHE'S SO NICE.
TRUE...
THE POSSIBILITY OF EVEN MORE TROUBLE DOWN THE LINE LIKELY ALSO HAD AN IMPACT ON HER DECISION...
...AS A SENATE MEMBER.
TROUBLE? LIKE ASIDE FROM MY BODY?

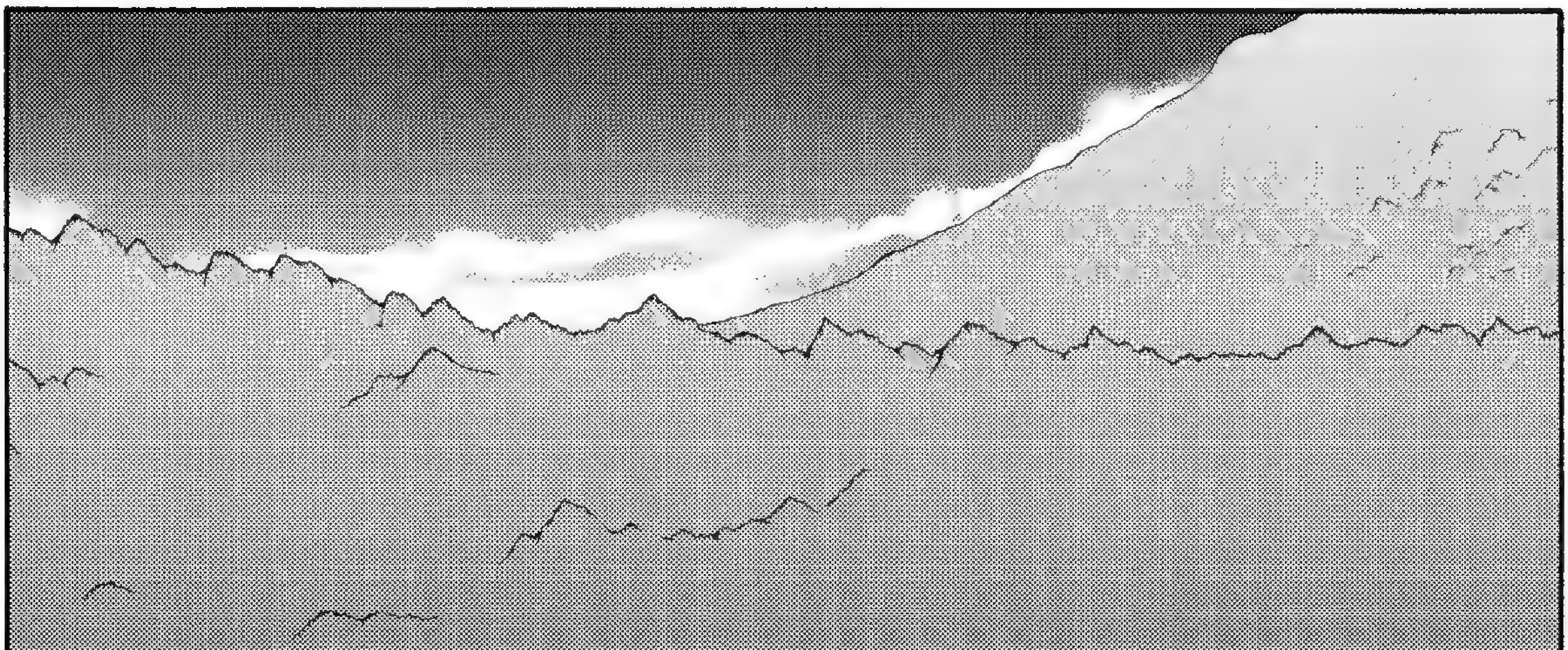
YEP.
DEMON HUNTERS TO COME, FOR EXAMPLE.
!
BUT WE'RE GETTING BY SOMEHOW OR ANOTHER
HIME-CHAN AND THE OTHERS ARE GIVING THEIR ALL, TOO!
HMM.
THE HUNTERS ARE A GROUP OF HALF-DEMONS,
BUT THINK ABOUT THE HUNTERS WHO HAVE SHOWN UP SO FAR.
SO FAR?
UMM ...
FIRST WAS ZAKURO-CHAN,
A HUMAN WHO FELL.
RIGHT.
A TRIED AND TRUE HALF-DEMON.
SHE'S THE SAME AS KOTOHA OR SHINOZUKA-KUN FROM THE TOWN OVER.
HMM.

ROKKAKU-KUN IS A WOLF WHO FELL.
HIS CASE WAS A LITTLE IRREGULAR, BUT STILL STANDARD.
HUMANS AND WOLVES ARE BOTH ANIMALS, AFTER ALL.
THEN THERE'S LILA, A HUMAN HUNTER WHO WAS ONLY UNDER THE GUISE OF HAVING FALLEN.
WHAT?
AND LASTLY, IRUKA, WHO WIELDED A FALLEN INANIMATE KATANA.
?
THOUGH IRUKA HERSELF IS ALREADY CRAZY STRONG.
I GUESS THERE HAVE BEEN ALL SORTS OF HUNTERS.
PROBABLY.
SO YOU MEAN THERE COULD ALSO BE...?
A HUNTER...
...WHO'S A FALLEN DEMON.

I SEE...
WELL, THAT'D BE THE HARDEST TYPE TO DEAL WITH, ANYWAY.
THE SENATE WILL PROBABLY WANT YOUR HELP IN THE EVENT ONE SHOWS UP.
THAT'S WHY THEY HELP OUT THE OFFICE.
WHETHER THAT'S THE SENATE'S GENERAL CONSENSUS OR SHIINA ACTING ON HER OWN, I CAN'T SAY.
OR RATHER, SHIDARE, HER SUPERIOR.
IN OTHER WORDS, THEY WANT ALL THE MUSCLE THEY CAN GET.
THESE EARS AREN'T JUST FOR REDUCING SLIPPAGE, BUT ALSO TO PROTECT YOU FROM BEING DROPPED.
WHAAAT? I DUNNO ABOUT THAT...
IT'S TRUE.
THEY HAVE THAT KIND OF CIRCUIT BUILT IN, AFTER ALL.
...
JUST THINK OF THEM AS A GOOD LUCK CHARM.
EVEN IF YOU DON'T USE THEM, TRY TO KEEP THEM WITH YOU AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
ぱたん
CLACK

OKAY. ALL DONE.
LET ME KNOW IF ANYTHING HAPPENS.
THANKS A BUNCH!
やっほー
YOO-HOOO!
やっほー
YOO-HOOO!
HM?
やっほー
YOO-HOOO!
やっほー
YOO-HOOO!
OH, IT'S KOTOHA-CHAN.
AOOO! BREAKFAST TIME!
LET'S GO!
'KAAAY.
SEE YOU LATER.
SEE YA!
HEY, KOTOHA-CHAN.
WHY DID YOU SAY "YOO-HOO" TWICE?
IS THAT A THING NOW?
HM?


...DID I?
WEIRD.
?
I'M SO HUNGRY I CAN'T REMEMBER.
LET'S GO HOME AND EAT!



MMM
PHEW... WHAT A LOVELY DAY.
BREAKFAST AT THE SUMMIT IS ESPECIALLY EXQUISITE.
TOKYO WAS FUN AND ALL, BUT I'M NOT A FAN OF THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF THE CITY.
I WONDER IF KYOSUKE WILL RUN THE INN WITH ME AFTER EVERYTHING SETTLES DOWN...
NO, NO, NO. HE HAS IMPORTANT TOWN BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO...
I'M ASKING FOR TOO MUCH.
どろん ちょま
BA DOOF
TOO MUCH...
やーほー
YOOO-HOOO

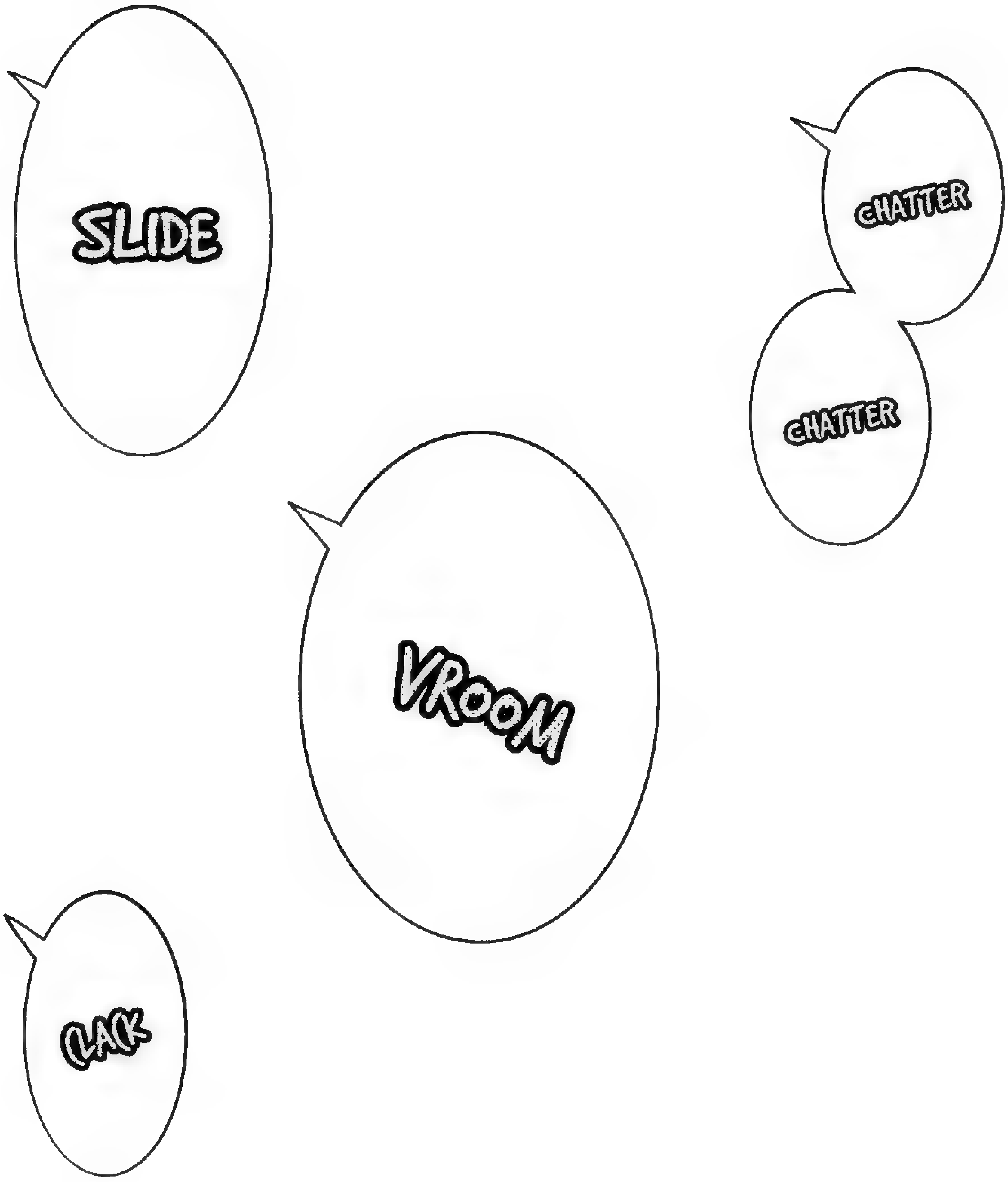
WHOOSH
...
IT CAN'T BE... NO, I'M CERTAIN OF IT...

AND WHILE I'M AWAY, TOO...
のこ
TAP
のこ
TIP

AAH! I'M STARVING!
WE'RE HAVING MISO SOUP WITH DAIKON TODAY.
NICE! I LOVE DAIKON IN MISO SOUP.
IT'S A WHOLE DIFFERENT FLAVOR THAN EATING IT RAW.
VRRR
ブウウン…
YOU EAT TOO MANY VEGETABLES RAW, KOTOHA-CHAN.
ざわ
CHATTER
OH, RIGHT! THE MORNING SOAP OPERA HIGHLIGHTS ARE GONNA START!
桜新町
ざわ
CHATTER
WHAT? WE SHOULD STILL HAVE TIME.
ざわ
CHATTER
REALLY.
カッチ
TICK
JUST LOOK AT THE TIME!
¥3,570
カッチ
TICK
ALARM CLOCK
¥3,980
WE HAVE TO HURRY!

ざわ
CHATTER
ざわ
CHATTER
ガラッ
SLIDE
おそば
IT'S GONNA START!
ブゥウゥッ…
VROOM
カッン
CLACK

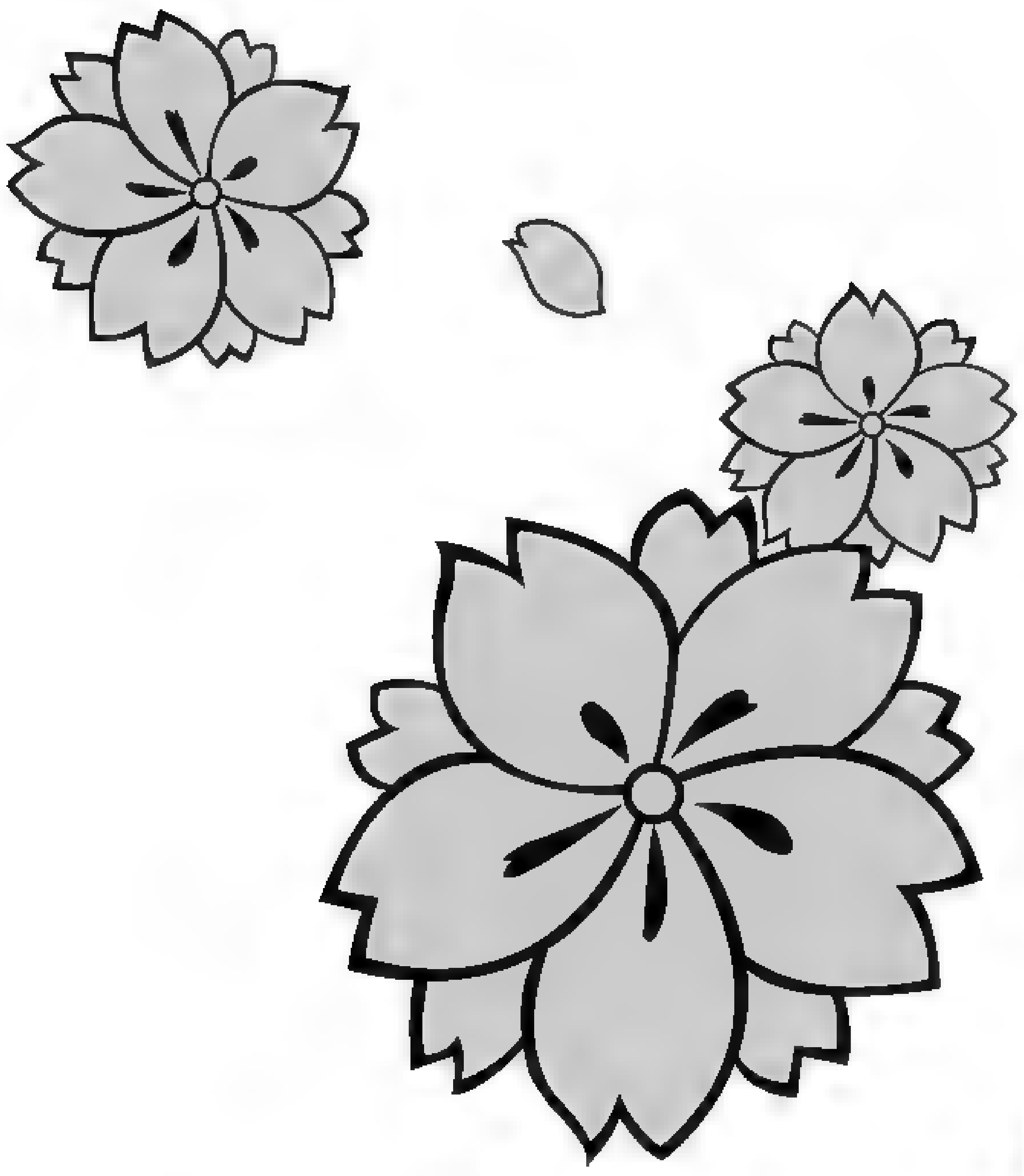
カン TNK
カン TNK
カン TNK
KOTOHA-CHAN!
ははは HA HA HA
ガヤ CLAMOR
ガヤ CLAMOR
パパーッ BEEP BEEEP
わい CHATTER
わい CHATTER
ザァア… WHIRRR


CHATTER
CHATTER
SLIDE
VROOM
CLACK

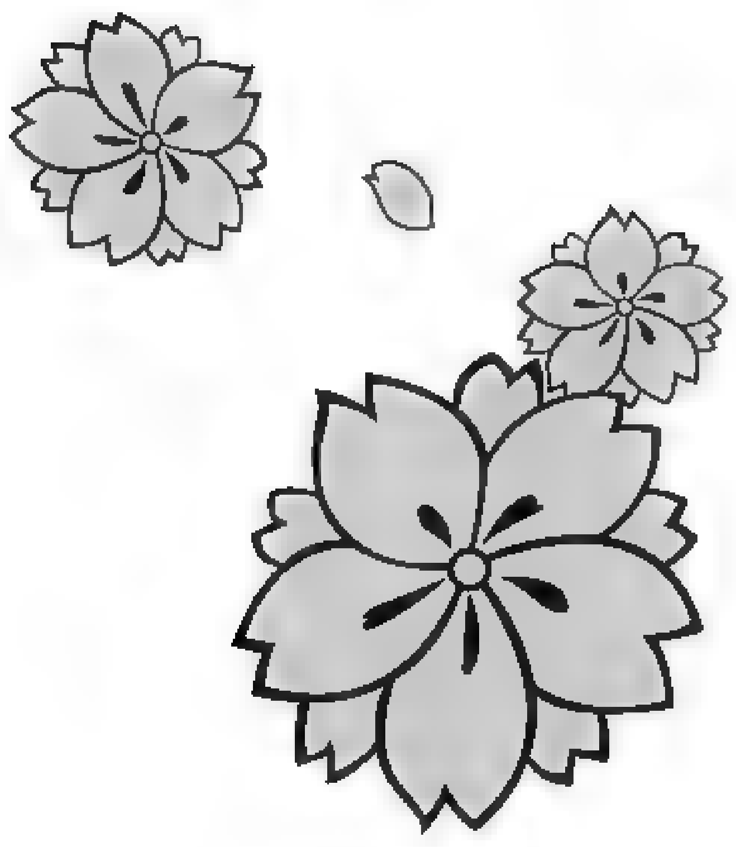
TNK
TNK
TNK
BEEP BEEEP
CLAMOR
CLAMOR
HA HA HA
CHATTER
CHATTER
WHIRRR

キュッ
SQUEEZE
"IT'S GOING TO START..."
"KOTOHA-CHAN."

82ND NIGHT *KOTONODAMA* (PART TWO) END



YOZAKURA
QUARTET
15



WOOOW.
NOW THIS IS IMPRESSIVE...

#83 *KOTONODAMA* (PART THREE)

IT MUST BE AS BIG AS THE NATIONAL DIET LIBRARY.
IT'S NOT QUITE THAT EXTENSIVE,
THOUGH I'M SURE THERE'S A LARGER COLLECTION OF WESTERN BOOKS HERE.
SO, WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE?
THEY WOULDN'T LET ME IN BY MYSELF.
I'LL GO WHEREVER THERE ARE BOOKS TO PERUSE...
...HM.
WELL, I THINK I'LL EXPLORE THE OTHER SECTIONS OF THE SENATE TODAY.
WHISSH
HUH?

JUST A LITTLE EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIP.
WHEN THERE ARE ALL THESE BOOKS TO BROWSE? WELL, SEE YA.
バタン
THUD
IS THIS REALLY ALL THE SENATE'S PRIZED LIBRARY HAS TO OFFER?
ふむ
HMM
おーん
WOOM
THAT BEING SAID, WITH SO MUCH TO CHOOSE FROM, I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START.
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN GO END TO END, AND IT'S HARD TO TELL WHICH WOULD BE A GOOD READ...
H-M-M.
OH, THIS IS ONE I BORROWED FROM LILA-SAN.
THIS, TOO.
AAH, WHAT TO DO...

EVERY BOOK IS A CHANCE ENCOUNTER.
YOU SHOULD JUST PICK WHATEVER STANDS OUT TO YOU.
EASIER SAID THAN DONE.
WHICH TO CHOOSE ...
FLAP
MU-MU-MURA-SAKI?!
でた〜！
FLAP
FRANKLY, I'M MORE SHOCKED TO SEE *YOU* HERE...
OH, YEAH. I GUESS THE SENATE IS BASICALLY HOME FOR YOU, HUH?
WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?!
SO, UHH, GOT ANY RECOMMENDATIONS? I FIGURE YOU HAVE A HANDLE ON MOST OF THE BOOKS HERE.
...
I'M SURPRISED.
ABOUT WHAT?

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD PUNCH ME THE MOMENT YOU SAW ME.
WELL, IF TOUKA'S FORGIVEN YOU, THEN IT'S NOT REALLY MY PLACE TO BUTT IN.
TOUKA'S TOO NICE FOR HER OWN GOOD.
...I SEE.
THEN YOU WOULDN'T MIND IF I DO A LITTLE...
HANDS OFF!
WHACK
THUD
...HONESTLY.
THIS IS A LIBRARY.
BE QUIET PLEASE.
S-SORRY...
PARDON ME.

I SHOULD GO NOW.
I'LL BE TAKING THESE TWO, GRANNY.
UNDERSTOOD.
MASTER MURASAKI, YOU SHOULD PUT DOWN THE BOOKS AND GO OUTSIDE ONCE IN A WHILE.
HOW OLD DO YOU THINK I AM? I'M NOT A KID ANYMORE.
バタン THUD
...YOU WILL ALWAYS BE A CHILD TO ME.
...
ARE YOU A LIBRARIAN?
THAT I AM. WHEN BORROWING A BOOK, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND HERE BEFORE.
?

EXCUSE ME.
CREAK
ギィ
...WELL, THIS IS AN UNEXPECTED VISITOR.
HOWDY.
DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT, LUCY-SAN?
SURE.
SO, HER NAME'S LUCY.
I'VE MADE A READING LIST FOR THE SUMMER BREAK AND WOULD LIKE TO BORROW THESE IF I MAY.
...
FU-34-970-RU...
RI-7-201-SO...
—
—
—

ALL DONE.
THANK YOU.
WELL, THEN.
B-BYE.
DO YOU REMEMBER WHERE EVERY BOOK BELONGS?
WITHOUT EVEN LOOKING THEM UP?
lease keep g
in the build
THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL.
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY HOP AROUND DAY TO DAY.
I JUST REMEMBER WHERE EVERY NEW BOOK GOES.
DO THAT FOR A FEW DECADES, AND VOILA.
SIMPLE, RIGHT?
I DUNNO ABOUT THAT...
THIS SHOULD DO IT.
I'LL TAKE ALL OF THESE, LUCY-SAN.
MMM-HMM.
FIND ANY GOOD BOOKS, KOTOHA?
OH, NOT YET.

I HAVE TO LOOK AROUND!
TAP たか
TAP たか
I'M GONNA HEAD BACK TO THE LAB.
TEXT ME WHEN YOU'RE DONE, OKAY?
IF I DON'T GET BACK TO YOU, FEEL FREE TO TAKE OFF!
ふる WAVE
ふる WAVE
はーい 'KAAAY!
ふる WAVE
ふる WAVE
WHY'D YOU BRING A GIRL LIKE HER HERE?
SHE WAS INTERESTED IN OUR COLLECTION.
ALSO...
ごそ RUSTLE
HERE.
WHAT'S THIS?
IT HAS SOME VEEERY INTERESTING FOOTAGE ON IT.
BYE NOW.

…
SHEESH.
SLIDE
ガララン
BWOOM
ブウン…
ジジジ…
BZZ
カチッ
CHIK
カタ
TAK
カタ
TAK
ぱっ
FLASH

ALL RIGHT...
WALL!
パチッ
BZT
!
SHORTCUT. PATRIOT!
WOW OW OW! WHY'D YOU INSTALL SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!
...
HERE GOES MY NEW SPECIAL MOVE...
FORK...
HYAH?!
HMM...

MISS…
COME WITH ME.
I'LL PICK OUT A READING LIST FOR YOU, AS WELL.
JINGLE
チャラ
HUH? THAT'D BE GREAT, BUT…
W-WHY?
DO YOU WANT ME TO OR NOT?
YES, PLEASE.
I APPRECIATE IT.
THEN BE QUIET AND FOLLOW ME.
ギィ
CREAK
WHAT FLOOR IS THIS, ANYWAY?
カッ
CLACK
CLACK
カッ
ガチャコン
KER-CHACK
ゴゴゴゴ
GRRR

...
A BOOKSHELF IN THE BACK OF THE LIBRARY? IT'S TINY.
IT HOLDS THE RAREST OF THE RARE BOOKS IN THE SENATE'S ARCHIVES. TRY NOT TO DROOL ALL OVER 'EM.

AH!
CATCH.
PRETTY ROUGH TREATMENT, I'D SAY...
THIS, THIS, AND THIS MIGHT BE GOOD, TOO.
THE NURSE WHO CAME WITH YOU... SHE'S CLEARLY READ HER FAIR SHARE OF BOOKS.
YOU CAN TELL?
'COURSE.
THE SELECTION UPSTAIRS PROBABLY ISN'T ENOUGH TO SATISFY SOMEONE AS WELL-READ AS HER.
TRUE... I HAVEN'T HEARD OF ANY OF THESE.
どさ THUD
どさ THUD
THAT OUGHTA DO.
LET'S GO. DON'T GO DROPPIN' THOSE NOW!
Y-YES, MA'AM!
HEAVY...

コポコポ…
POUR
…
YOU'RE GOOD FOR TIME, RIGHT? HAVE SOME TEA WHILE YOU'RE HERE.
?
HUH…
THESE REALLY DO LOOK INTERESTING.
I CAN TELL JUST BY SKIMMING.
FLIP
YOU CAN READ THEM WITHOUT A DICTIONARY?
…
OH, YEAH.
I STUDIED LANGUAGE BECAUSE I WANTED TO READ MORE.
RUSSIAN, ITALIAN, AND A LITTLE FRENCH…
カチャ
CLINK
WELL, BRAVO.
IN YOUR CASE, THE DESIRE TO READ.
DRIVE.
THE WILL TO ACQUIRE THE MEANS TO PURSUE YOUR OBJECTIVE…
…IS A VERY IMPORTANT QUALITY TO HAVE.

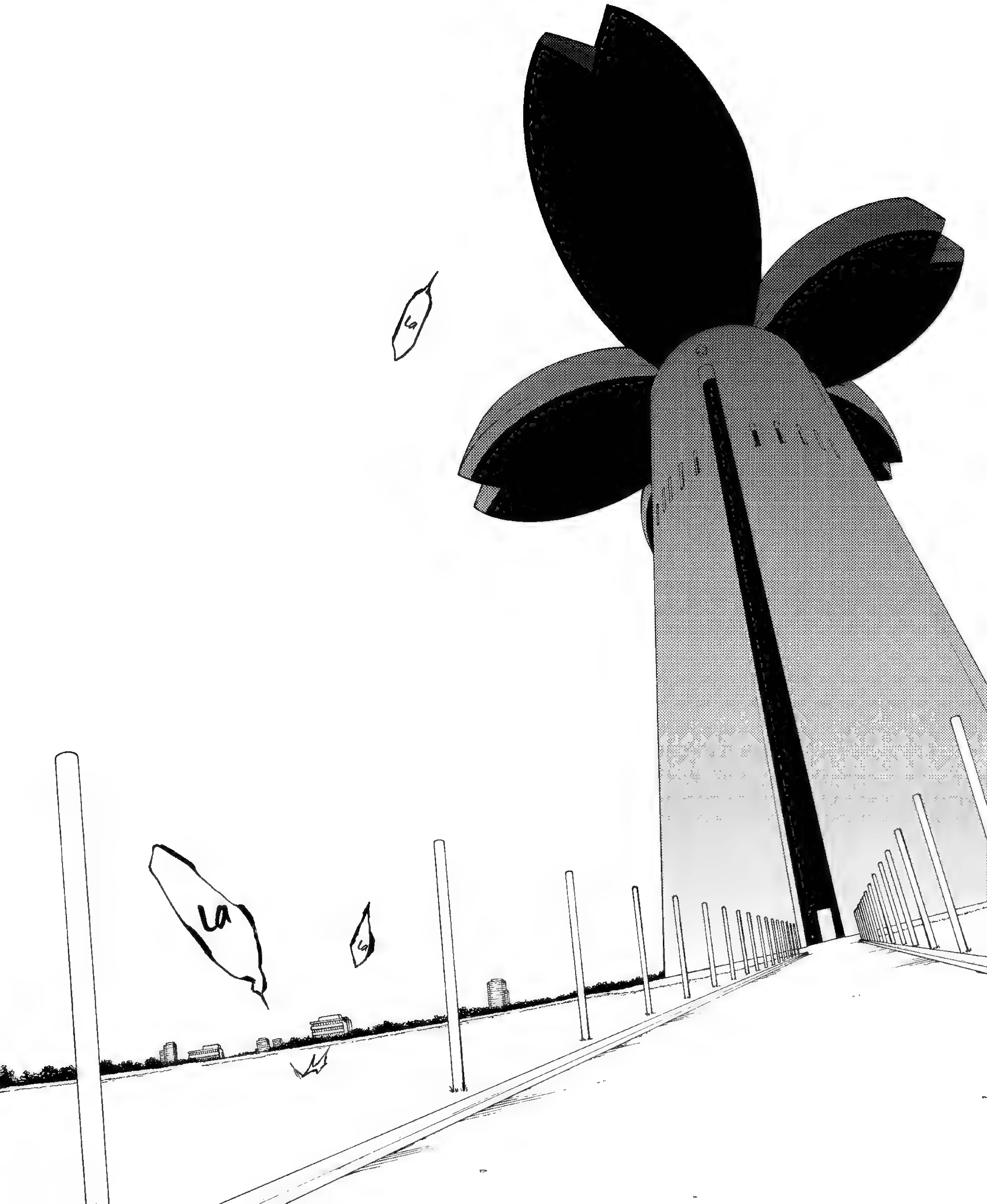
ANYONE CAN *WANT* TO DO SOMETHING,
BUT THOSE WITH THE DRIVE TO WORK TOWARDS THAT SOMETHING ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN.
HUH...
REALIZING YOUR GOALS IS CRUCIAL.
SPOON...
ESPECIALLY...
...FOR A HALF-DEMON *KOTODAMA* USER LIKE YOU.
!
YOU KNEW?
I'D HEARD RUMORS,
BUT I'D NEVER SEEN A PHOTO OF YOU.
FOR A MEMBER OF THE SENATE,
YOU'RE BEING AWFULLY KIND TO A HALF-DEMON LIKE ME.
LENDING ME BOOKS AND SUCH...

YOU'RE A HALF-DEMON, RIGHT?
YES.
HALF HUMAN, HALF DEMON...
YOU WERE DROPPED AND BECAME A HALF-DEMON.
BUT WHAT EXACTLY WAS IT THAT "FELL" INTO YOU?
...HUH?
"A HALF-DEMON WITH THE LABEL OF *KOTODAMA USER*." STRICTLY SPEAKING, THAT ISN'T THE CASE.
YOU'RE A HALF-DEMON THAT'S HALF HUMAN AND HALF *KOTODAMA* USER.
I'D NEVER THOUGHT OF IT LIKE THAT.
THEN THAT MEANS...

THAT'S RIGHT.
"SPOON!"
BZT
!
ポチャン
PLINK
DEMON *KOTODAMA* USERS DO IN FACT EXIST...
PARDON MY LATE INTRODUCTION.
ギィ
CREAK

MY NAME IS LUCY LANG MIRAKLAUS.
I'M A PURE-BRED DEMON *KOTODAMA* USER.

すぅ、
FWOO
La
La

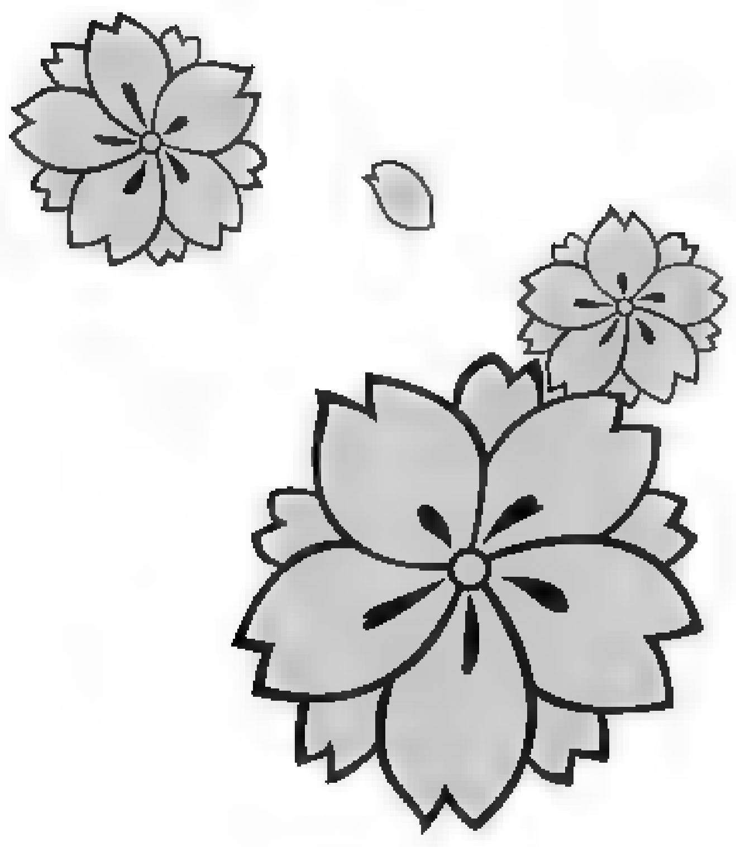

La
La
La

Laaa

I LIKE THIS PLACE.
MY VOICE RESONATES WELL.
OKAY, THAT SETTLES IT.
LET'S DO IT HERE, SHALL WE?

83RD NIGHT *KOTONODAMA* (PART THREE) END

YOZAKURA QUARTET
15



YOZAKURA QUARTET 15

WHAT A SURPRISE.
I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO REACH OUT TO US.
...WELL, I FEEL KINDA BAD FOR LEAVING ALL OF A SUDDEN LAST TIME.
I FIGURE THE LEAST I CAN DO IS HEAR YOU GUYS OUT.
HA, HA.
HONESTLY, THE REPRESENTATIVE COULD HAVE CHOSEN HIS WORDS MORE CAREFULLY.
ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULD BE SAYING THAT?
IT'S FINE.
THINK
THE REPRESENTATIVE ISN'T HERE YET.

#84 *KOTONODAMA* (PART FOUR)

LET'S WAIT OVER THERE.

THERE'S AN ANTECHAMBER, TOO?
HOW EASTERN.
CAN YOU MAKE US SOME COFFEE, SHIINA-KUN?
YEAH...
YUP. THREE CUPS IS GOOD.
IS ONE FOR ME?
NO, SHIINA-KUN SAYS SHE'LL HAVE SOME, TOO.
HOW WOULD YOU DRINK IT, ANYHOW?
チン CHING
SHIDARE-SAN,
I CAME TODAY BECAUSE I WANTED TO ASK ABOUT TUNING.
AAH, Y'MEAN THE WHOLE NO USING IT UNTIL THE FINAL SHOWDOWN THING?
NO, AFTER THAT. ABOUT HOW THE SENATE OFFERED TO LEND ME THEIR TUNING TECHNOLOGY.
OH, THAT.
YEAH, I GUESS I'D KNOW MORE ABOUT THAT THAN THE REPRESENTATIVE.
LET'S TALK ABOUT IT BEFORE HE SHOWS UP.

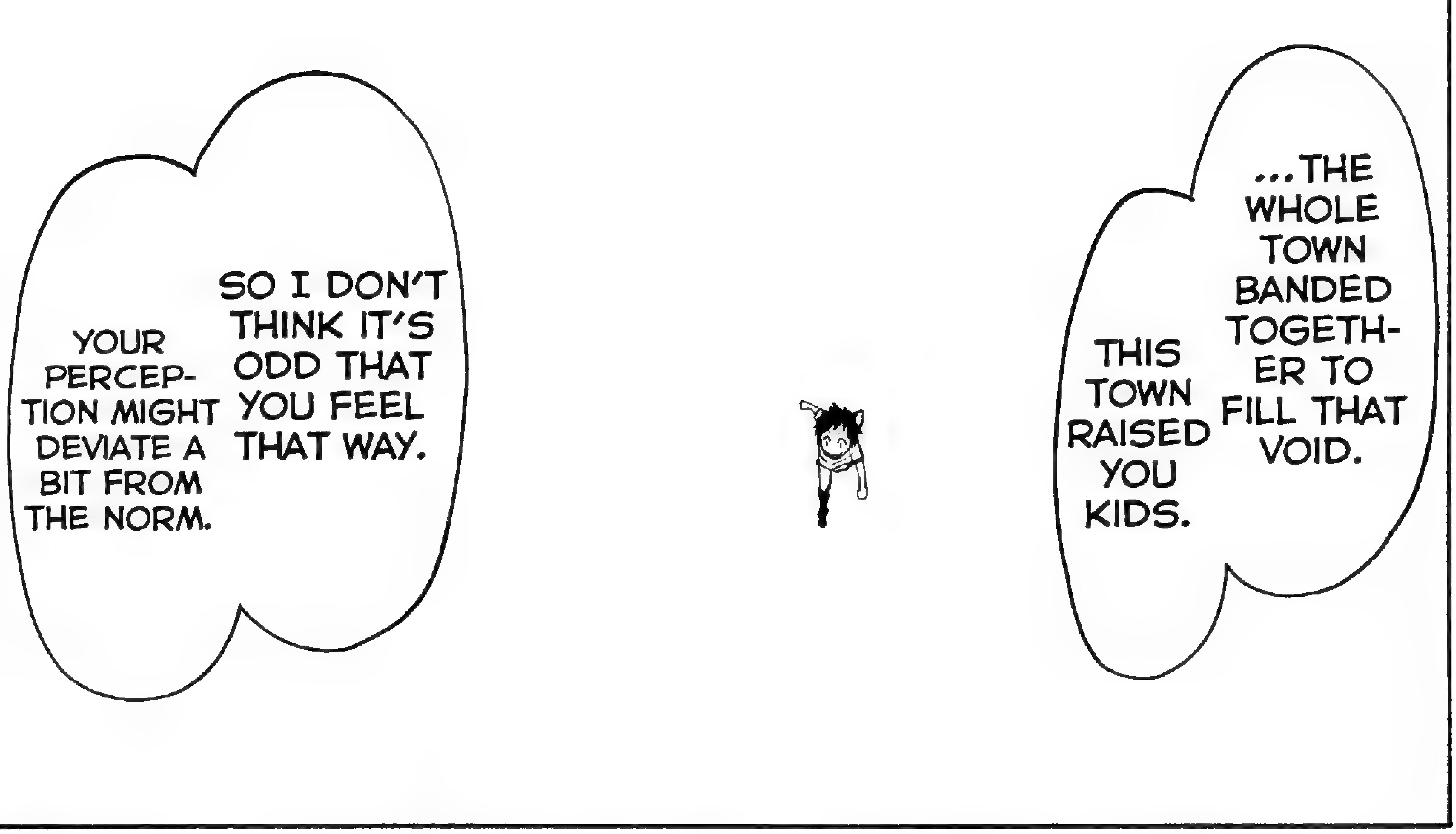
ONI SLAYER-SAN,
YOU MIGHT RECALL THAT WE TOOK SOME DATA ON YOU THE OTHER DAY.
AYE.
IN SHORT, WE WANT TO CONDUCT TUNING USING THE DEMON BLADE'S POWER.
!
THE DEMON BLADE'S POWER IS ENOUGH TO SEVER A DEMON.
IF YOU CHANGE WHERE THE BLADE TIP POINTS JUST A LITTLE BIT...
...THEN YOU CAN SEVER THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE YOUKAI IN THIS REALM.
IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S POSSIBLE TO DO SOMETHING SIMILAR TO TUNING.
THEORETICALLY, ANYWAY.
BUT I'VE NO IDEA AS TO HOW TO DO THAT.
LEMME BORROW THAT.
THAT'S WHERE THIS COMES IN.
ぞろん
PLAP

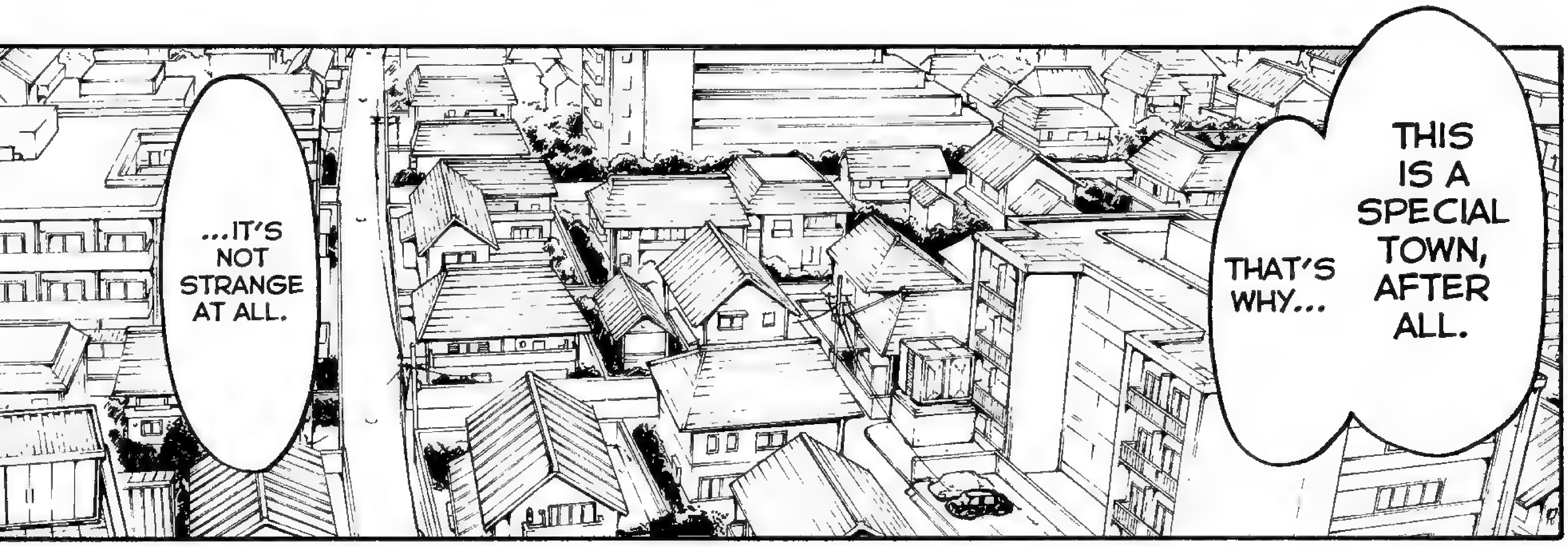
WITH THIS DEVICE, YOU CAN USE THIS DEMON BLADE AS A MEDIUM FOR TUNNING.
IT'S NOT COMPLETE, OF COURSE, SO THERE ARE LIMITATIONS.
YOU MIGHT STILL NEED TO USE YOUR OWN POWER TO GIVE IT THE FINAL PUSH.
BUT IT SHOULD DRAMATICALLY REDUCE THE STRAIN ON YOUR BODY.
YOU MEAN…
YEP. IT'S THE SAME AS THE EARS MADE FOR AO-KUN.
A BOOSTER.
THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS IT'S INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT TO CREATE MYSTICAL POWERS FROM SCRATCH.
HOWEVER, WITH THE RIGHT KNOW-HOW, WE CAN AMPLIFY THEM.
コッ
TNK
コッ
TNK
THAT BEING SAID, I STILL HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ON CREATING THEM FROM SCRATCH.
パチッ
KINK

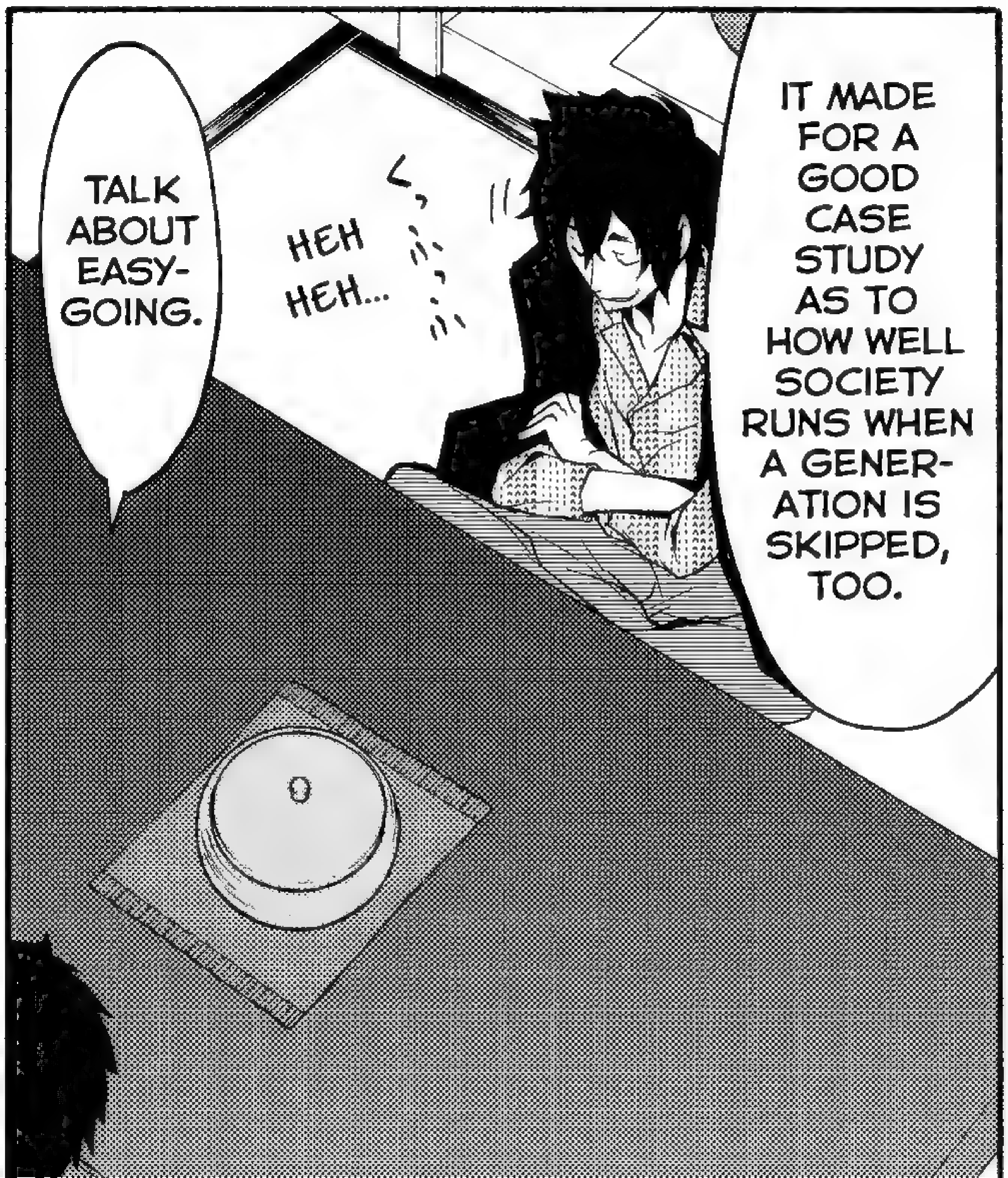
THERE YOU HAVE IT.
THANKS.
ISN'T THAT GREAT, SLAYMAN?
YOU EVEN GOT A REFORGING.
NO, THIS IS FROM WHEN THE LAND GOD...
...
HEH...
?
OH, SORRY.
IT'S JUST YOU CAN REALLY FLY OFF THE HANDLE WHEN YOU LOSE YOUR COOL, BUT YOU'RE USUALLY SO ALOOF.
THAT PART OF YOU IS JUST LIKE YOUR GRANDFATHER.
AS WELL AS...
...YOUR FATHER.
!

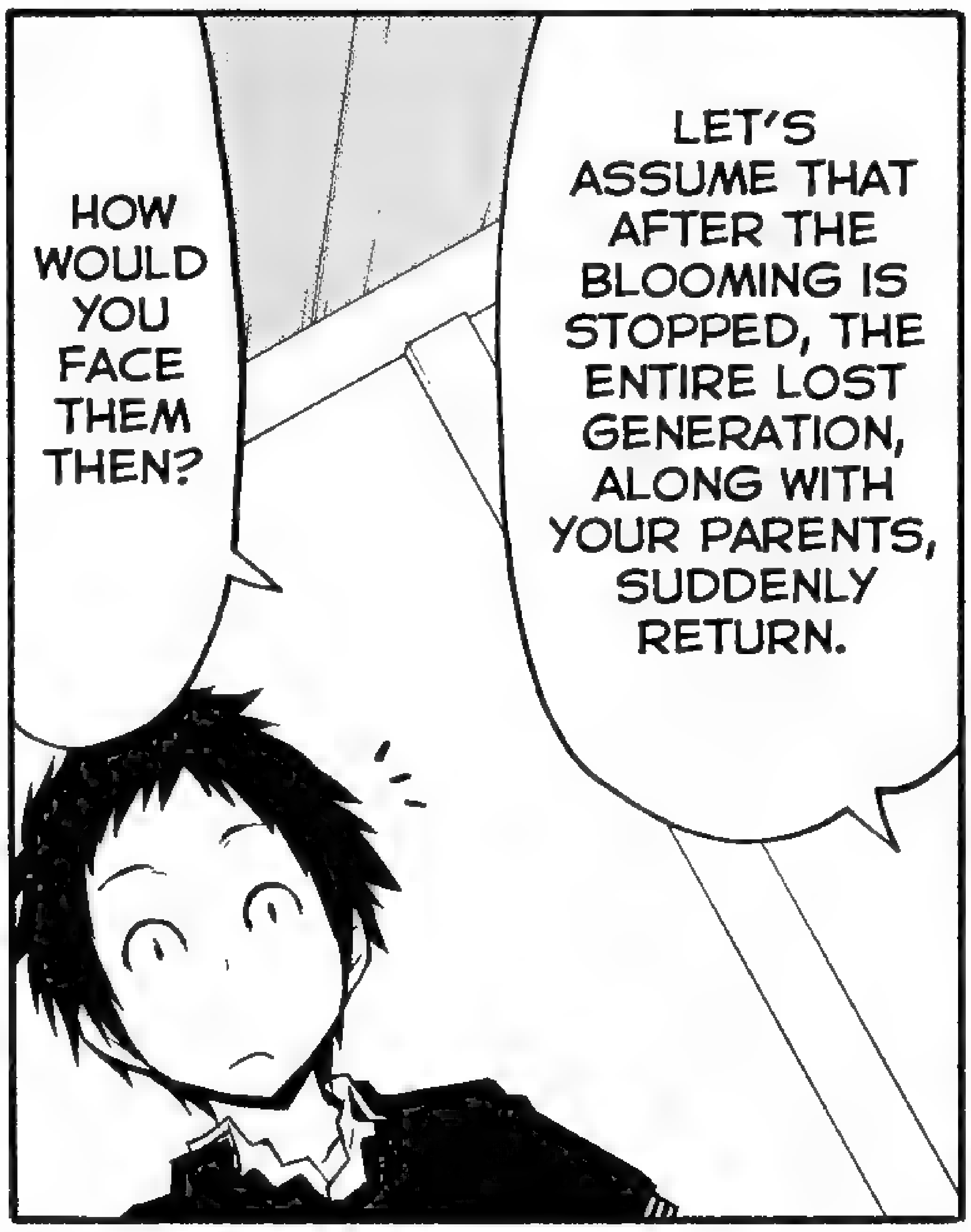
...
...
DOESN'T QUITE CLICK?
WELL, IT'S JUST...
ポヨン ポヨン
BOUNCE BOUNCE
...I HAVE NO MEMORY OF MY PARENTS AT ALL,
SO I'M NOT SURE HOW I SHOULD REACT.
I'M NOT SURPRISED.
YOUR FATHER WAS AT THE FOREFRONT...
...OF THE LOST GENERATION, AFTER ALL.

THE PEOPLE WHO VOLUNTEERED TO BE SENT TO THE NEXT REALM IN ORDER TO STOP THE BLOOMING, THE LOST GENERATION.
GRANDPA WOULD USUALLY TELL ME ANYTHING, BUT THIS IS THE ONE TOPIC HE WOULDN'T GO INTO DETAIL ABOUT. THAT'S PROBABLY PART OF IT.
EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE MY PARENTS, I FEEL LIKE I DIDN'T HAVE ANY. IT'S LIKE THEY NEVER EXISTED.
IT'S LIKE... I DUNNO... MAYBE I'M JUST TOO COLD.
WHEN THE LOST GENERATION UP AND DISAPPEARED, A LOT OF KIDS WERE LEFT WITHOUT PARENTS.
HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO COVER UP THAT FACT, AND TO GIVE THEM A PROPER UPBRINGING...


...THE WHOLE TOWN BANDED TOGETHER TO FILL THAT VOID.
THIS TOWN RAISED YOU KIDS.
SO I DON'T THINK IT'S ODD THAT YOU FEEL THAT WAY.
YOUR PERCEPTION MIGHT DEVIATE A BIT FROM THE NORM.


THIS IS A SPECIAL TOWN, AFTER ALL.
THAT'S WHY...
...IT'S NOT STRANGE AT ALL.


IT MADE FOR A GOOD CASE STUDY AS TO HOW WELL SOCIETY RUNS WHEN A GENERATION IS SKIPPED, TOO.
HEH HEH...
TALK ABOUT EASYGOING.

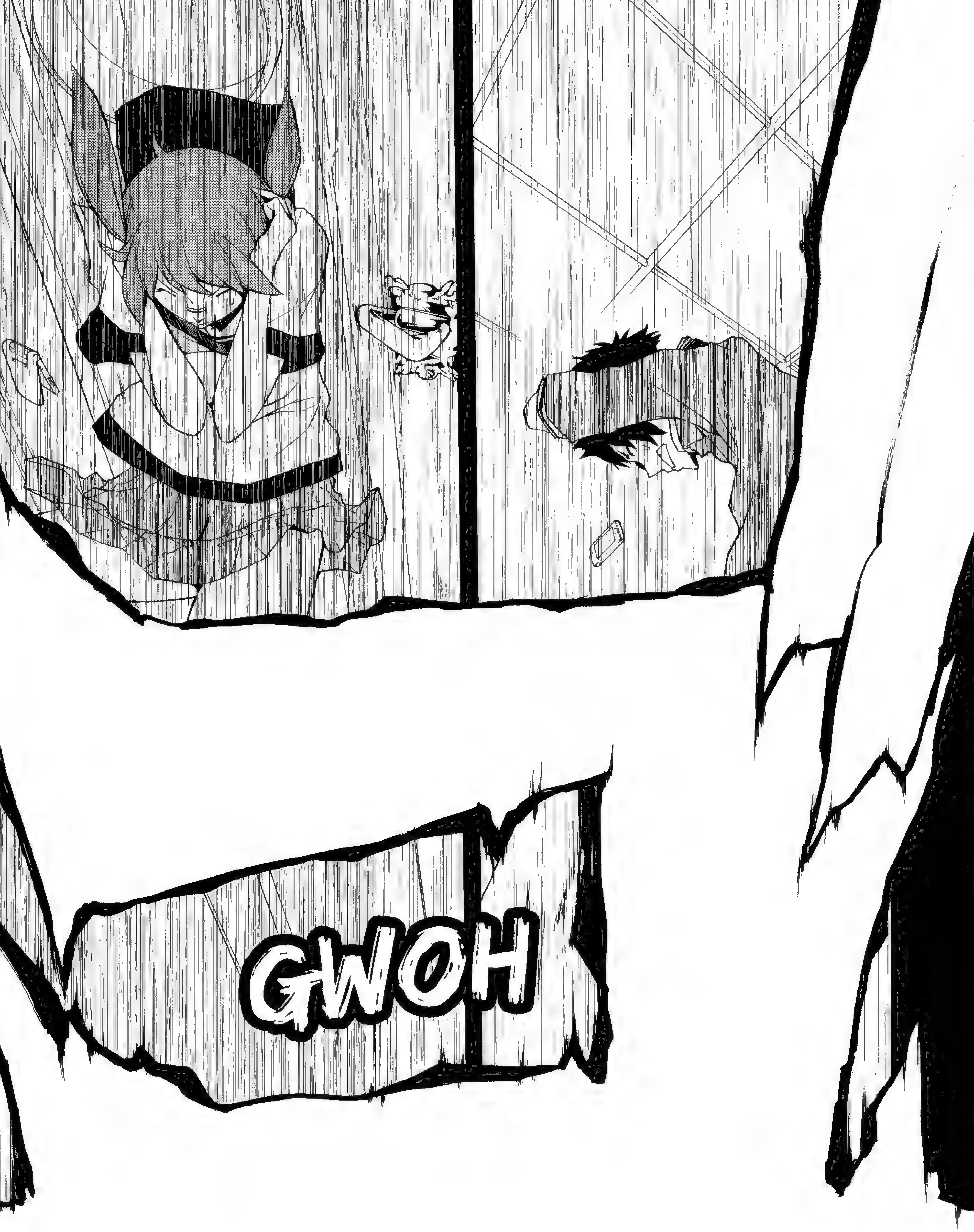

LET'S ASSUME THAT AFTER THE BLOOMING IS STOPPED, THE ENTIRE LOST GENERATION, ALONG WITH YOUR PARENTS, SUDDENLY RETURN.
HOW WOULD YOU FACE THEM THEN?

…
MMM…
THERE'S A SAYING THAT GOES, "A FOSTER PARENT IS DEARER THAN A BIRTH PARENT."
BUT THERE'S ALSO THE MINDSET THAT PARENTS ARE PARENTS, NO MATTER WHAT.
WHAT I CAN SAY IS THAT EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MEMORY OF THEM,
YOUR PARENTS CARE VERY DEEPLY ABOUT YOU.
SO YOU HAVE THIS ONE-SIDED LOVE,
AS WELL AS BLOOD TIES.
AS LONG YOU HAVE THAT, I DON'T THINK BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM IS TOO OUT OF THE QUESTION.
IF AND WHENEVER THEY MIGHT RETURN…
…

I'LL THINK ABOUT IT IF I EVER SEE THEM AGAIN.
THAT'S FINE.
...THOUGH YOU MIGHT WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT SOON.
MUMBLE
ぼそっ
?
JUST TALKING TO MYSELF.
BY THE WAY, DID YOU KNOW YOUR VICE DIRECTOR IS HERE, TOO?
HUH? KOTOHA?
IN HER OWN RESPECT,
SHE'S ALSO BEING FORCED TO FACE HER ROOTS.

A DEMON... KOTODAMA USER?
ズズ…
SIP
CREAK
I HAD NO IDEA THEY EXISTED AS DEMONS.
ズン…
THUD
ガタ…
CLUNK
...I'D LOVE TO TELL YOU MORE, BUT IT'S TIME TO CLOSE UP SHOP.
HUH?
ずずずい
PUSH PUSH
OFF YOU GO NOW.
WHA? ER...

バタン・・・
THUD
...
ガチャ
KER-CHAK
UMM... WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?
WHOA!
ガシャ ガシャ ガシャン
CHIK CHAK CHIK
?
?
CHIK CHAK
ガシャ ガシャン
?
ピロリロ
BRING-DING
IT'S AKINA...
ズン
FOOM
OH, YOU, TOO?
YUP, YUP. I'M AT THE SENATE.
FOOM ズン
HUH...? WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
IT'S GETTING LOUDER...
FOOM ズン


GWOH

EEEEEE

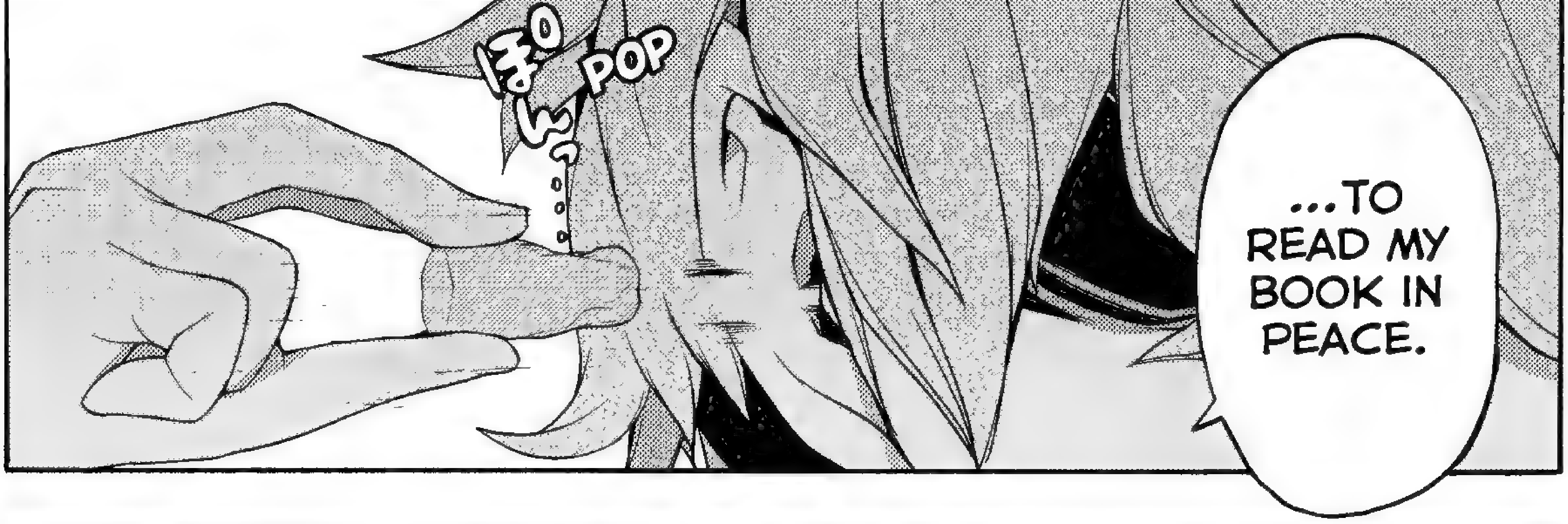
EEE

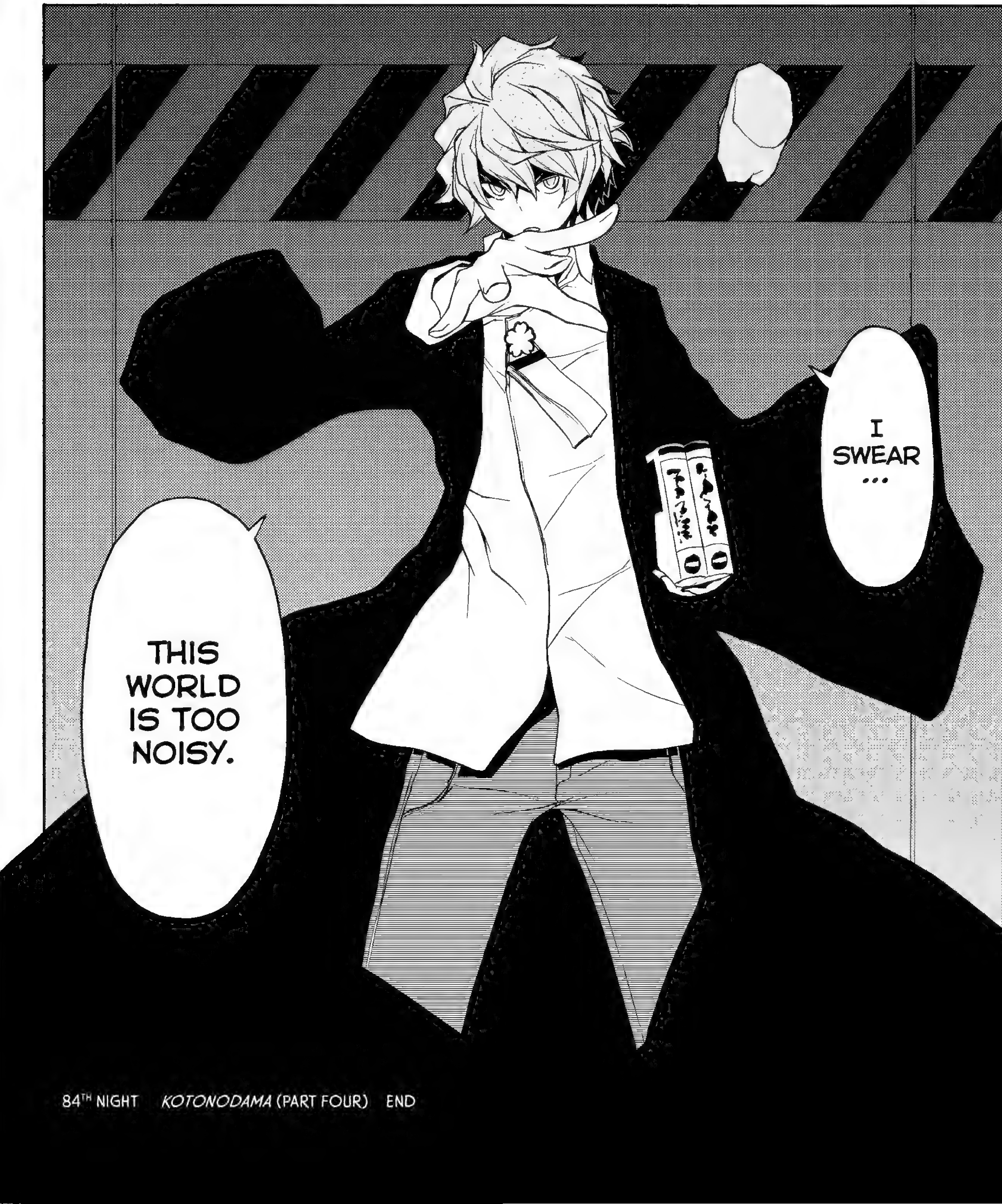
EEEE
EEEEEE

BOOM
...GOOD GRIEF.
SKF
OH, BOTHER.

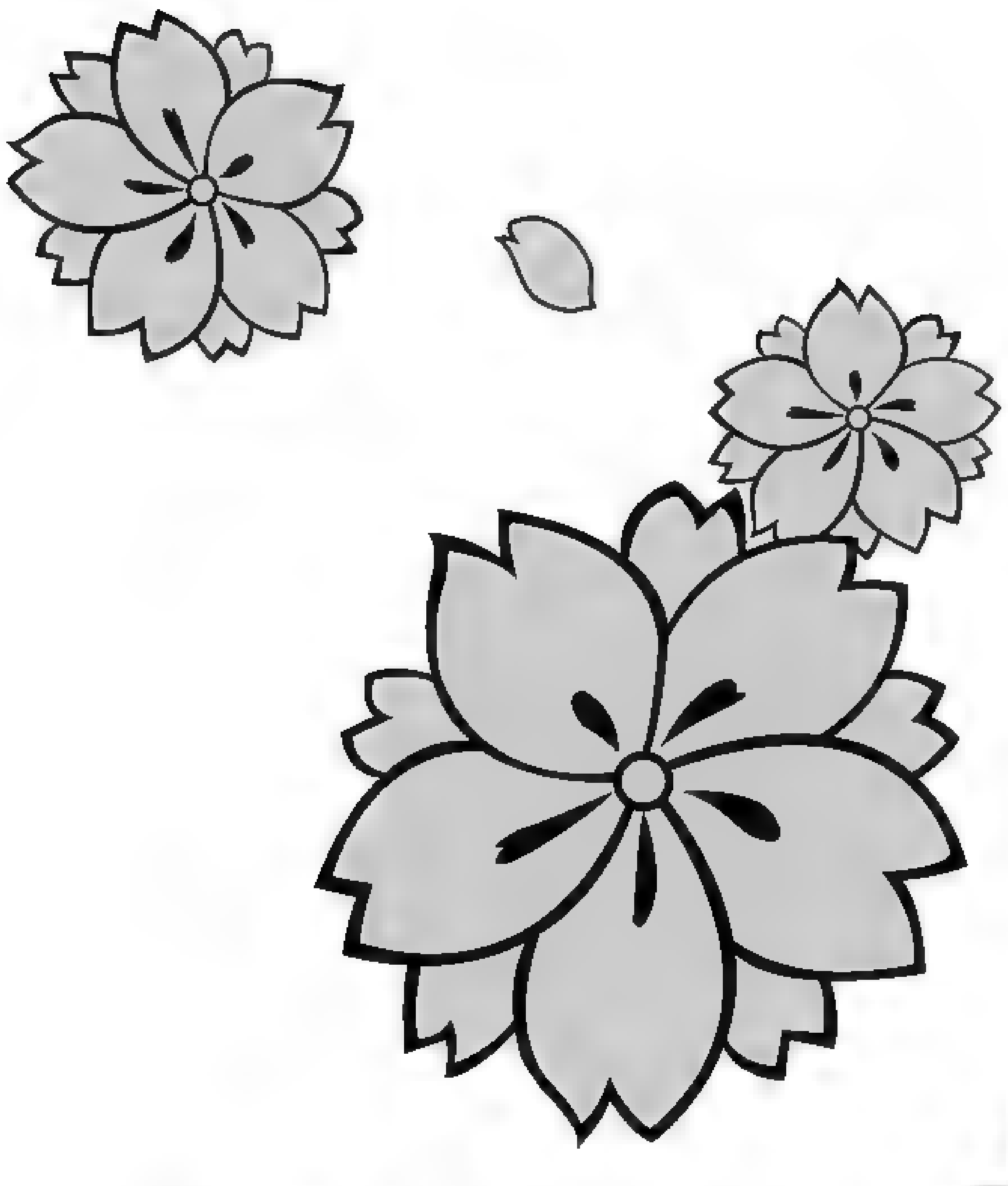
Sign: No Trespassing

WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS RUCKUS?
ぽてっ
FLOP
ぴょこん
SPROING
I JUST WANT...

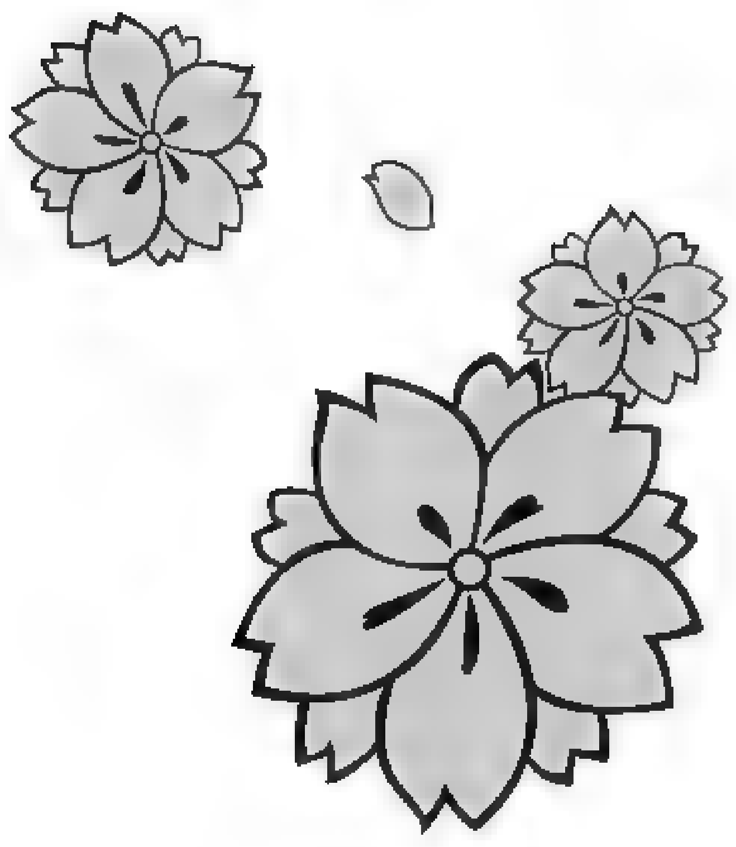

ぽんっ
POP
...TO READ MY BOOK IN PEACE.


I SWEAR...
THIS WORLD IS TOO NOISY.

84TH NIGHT *KOTONODAMA* (PART FOUR) END



YOZAKURA
QUARTET 15



YOZAKURA QUARTET 15

La
La
La

la
la
la
ズンッ・・・
FooM
う
FooM
ズンッ・・・
ズンッ・・・
FooM
ズンッ・・・
FooM
ズンッ・・・
FooM

#85 *KOTONODAMA* (PART FIVE)

TMP
TMP
THAT KID? THAT ONE? NO, I WAS TOLD IT WAS A GIRL, AND HE'S A BOY. IS HE OLDER THAN ME? IS IT WEIRD IF I CALL HIM A KID, THEN?
THE ONES KNOCKED DOWN OVER THERE ARE AN OLDER MAN AND... NOT-SO-OLDER LADY, YEAH. MORE IMPORTANTLY, I SHOULD COMPLETE THE TWO TASKS I WAS GIVEN. TWO TASKS.

SNAP
ポキッ
ONE IS TO ELIMINATE THE GIRL, AND THE OTHER IS TO FIND WHAT I WAS TOLD TO. HE SAID IT DIDN'T MATTER WHICH I START WITH, SO FOR NOW I GUESS I'LL JUST GO INSIDE. IT SHOULD BE FINE, YEAH.
TAP
すた、
OKAY.
LET'S GET STARTED.
CLANG

CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
HOW MANY FLOORS DID THE BASEMENT HAVE? WAIT, WAIT. WHAT FLOOR IS THIS, ANYWAY? THE 30TH? HIGHER? HOW MANY FLOORS ARE THERE ALTOGETHER?
CLANG
ARE THERE 30 FLOORS TO THE BASEMENT, TOO? 60 TOTAL? THEN I SHOULD USE 60 FLOORS' WORTH OF STRENGTH... WHAT IS 60 FLOORS' WORTH OF STRENGTH, ANYWAY? UHH, I'M NOT SURE...
CLANG
CLANG
WHATEVER.
I'LL JUST GO ALL OUT.

GRSH

HUH?
CLANG
WHA? HUH?
PROTEC
GRR
CLANG
CLANG
GRR
CLANG
GRR
FOOM
GRR
ドス

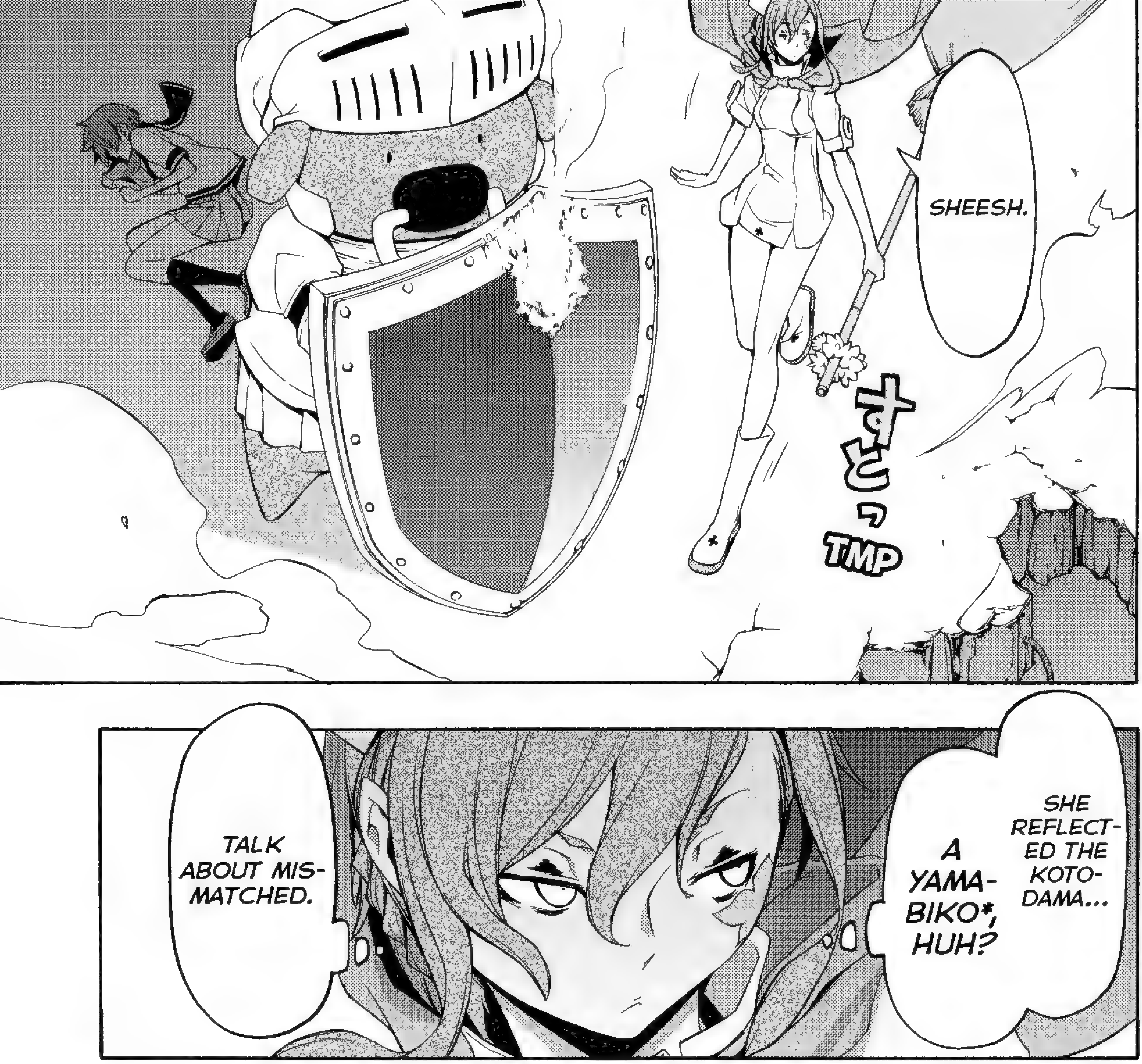
PROTECT!
FOOM
FOOM
ズズン…
PROTECTION SHIELD
ズズン…
FOOM
ズズン…
FOOM
PROTECT
SIP
ずず…
HOW HAPHAZARD.
VIBRATIONS ARE ENOUGH TO DAMAGE BOOKS, YOU KNOW.
FOOM
FOOM
BZT
FLAP
FLAP
I'LL JUST ADD MORE.
"DEFENSE WALLS."
POOF
POOF
POOF
POOF
POOF
PROTECT
PROTECT
PROTECT
PROTECT
PROTECT
PROTECT
CHACK
CHACK
CHACK

はわ…
OOF...
IT'S TOUGH...
?
CLANG
OH, WELL.
I'LL GO THIS WAY.
...THE GROUND'S RUMBLING?
HUH? IS IT?
FAINTLY...

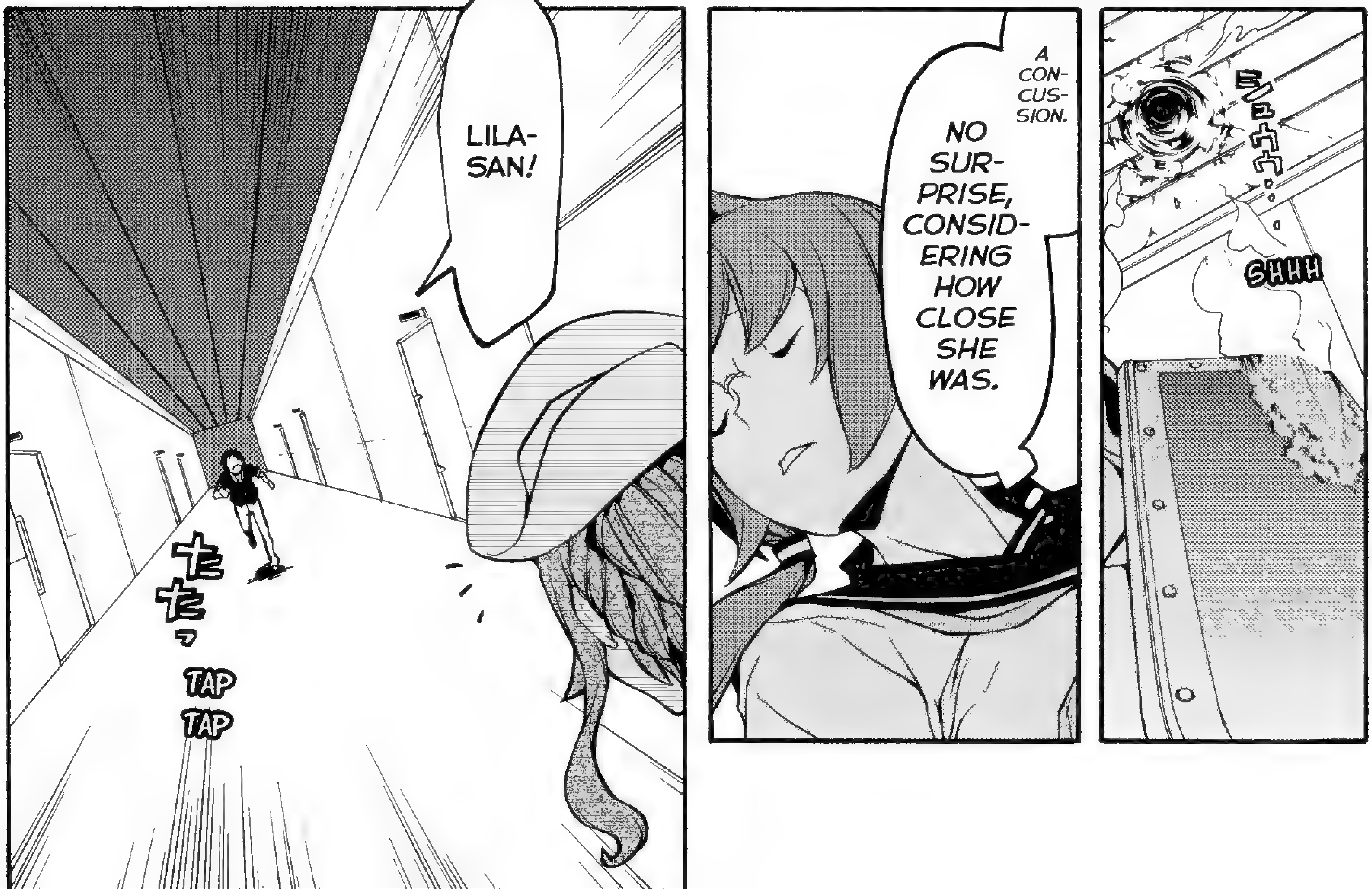
I'LL JUST USE SATELLITE AND GET SOME INFO...
ずぽっ
SHOOP
AAH! HOLD IT!
YOU'RE SUP-POSED TO TAKE IT EASY!
I'LL TAKE A LOOK. WHICH WAY?
ぴょん
BOING
OVER THERE, I THINK.
YOU MEAN TOWARD THE SENATE BUILDING?
...
WAS THE SENATE BUILDING ALWAYS SHAPED LIKE THAT?
?
ジー…
STARE
HOW'S IT LOOK, HIME-CHAN?
MMM...
IT'S TOO FAR TO TELL, REALLY.
KOTOHA-CHAN'S THERE, SO IT SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT.
OH, YEAH.
AKINA'S THERE, TOO.

I GUESS THEY'LL BE OKAY, THEN.
BOOM

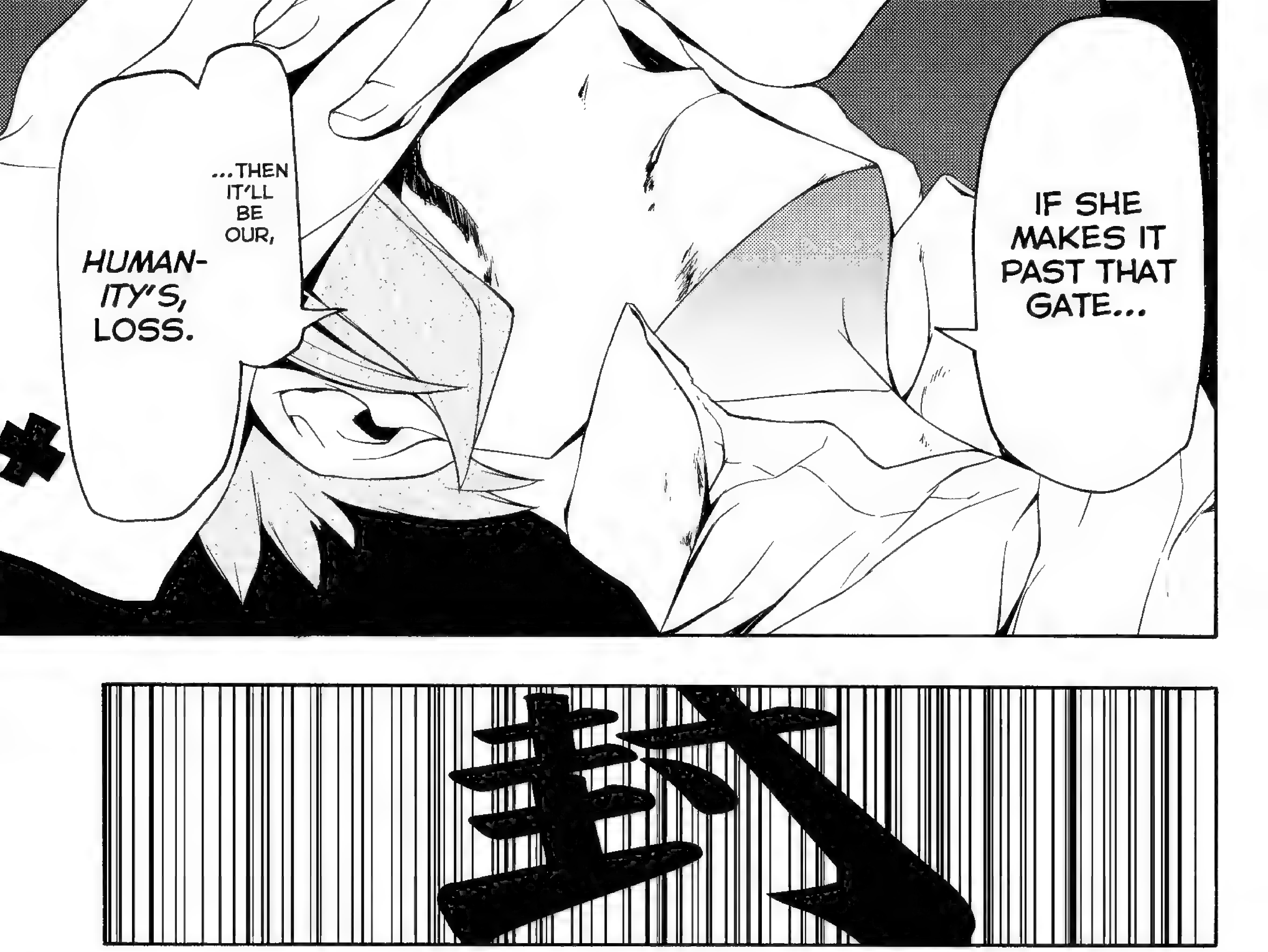
FOOF
AAH, THAT STARTLED ME. SHE CAME OUT OF NOWHERE. I NEED TIME TO GET READY, TOO, Y'KNOW. IF YOU JUST POP OUT LIKE THAT, THEN I WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD BACK.
WOOO
ANYWAY, WAS THAT THE KOTODAMA GIRL? THE ONE HE MENTIONED? MY NATURAL ENEMY...OR I GUESS I'M HER NATURAL ENEMY? IS SHE OKAY? I HOPE SHE IS. WE REALLY WILL BECOME ENEMIES IF SHE'S NOT.
WELL, I HAVE TWO TASKS. I'LL SAVE THAT ONE FOR LATER! INFILTRATING COMES FIRST. I GET THE FEELING I'LL SEE HER AGAIN, ANYWAY. MAYBE. PROBABLY.
FWOO
MOST LIKELY.
FSHH


SHEESH.
すとっ
TMP
SHE REFLECTED THE KOTODAMA...
A YAMABIKO*, HUH?
TALK ABOUT MISMATCHED.

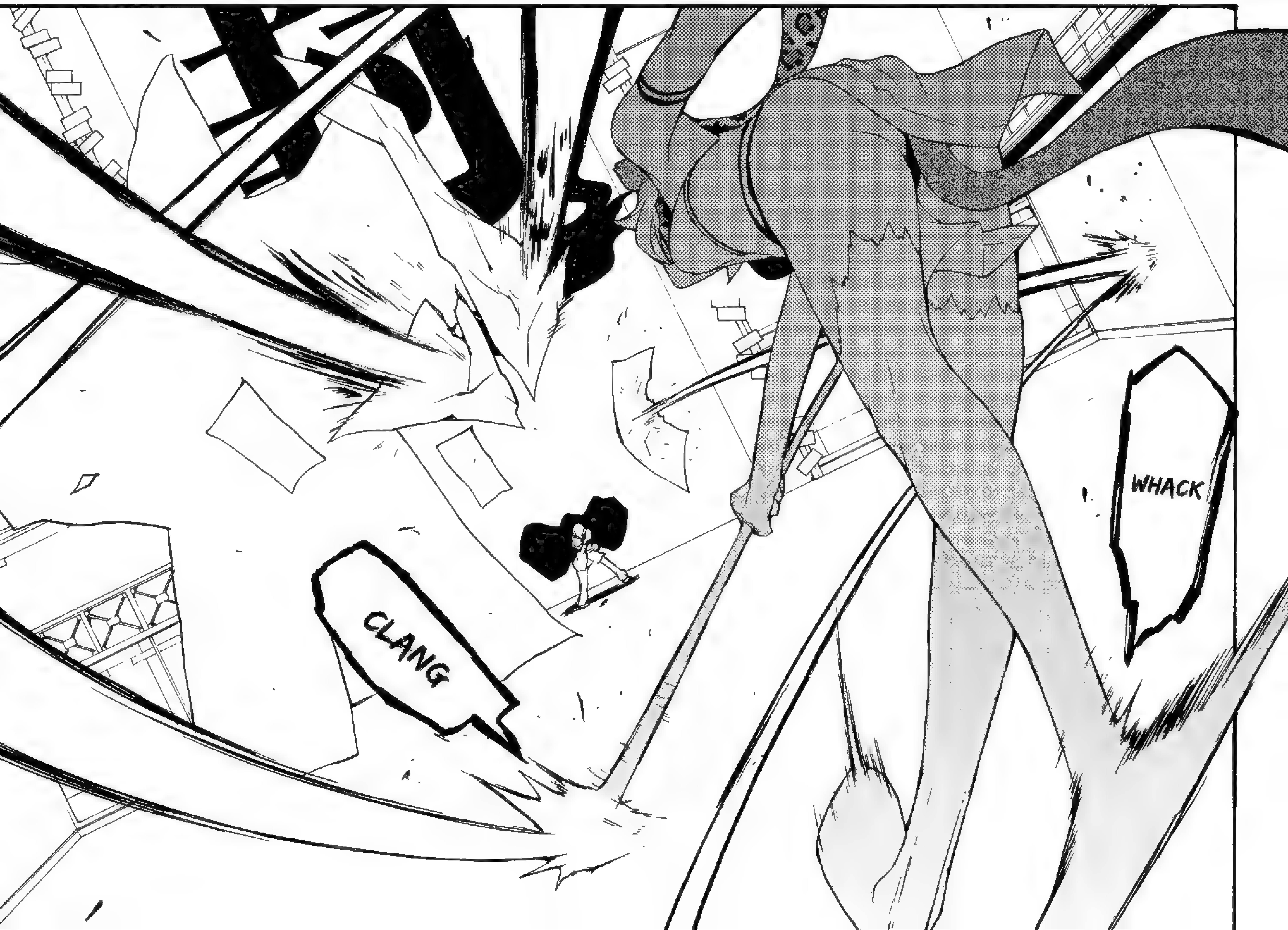
*Yamabiko are mountain demons that manipulate sound and echoes.

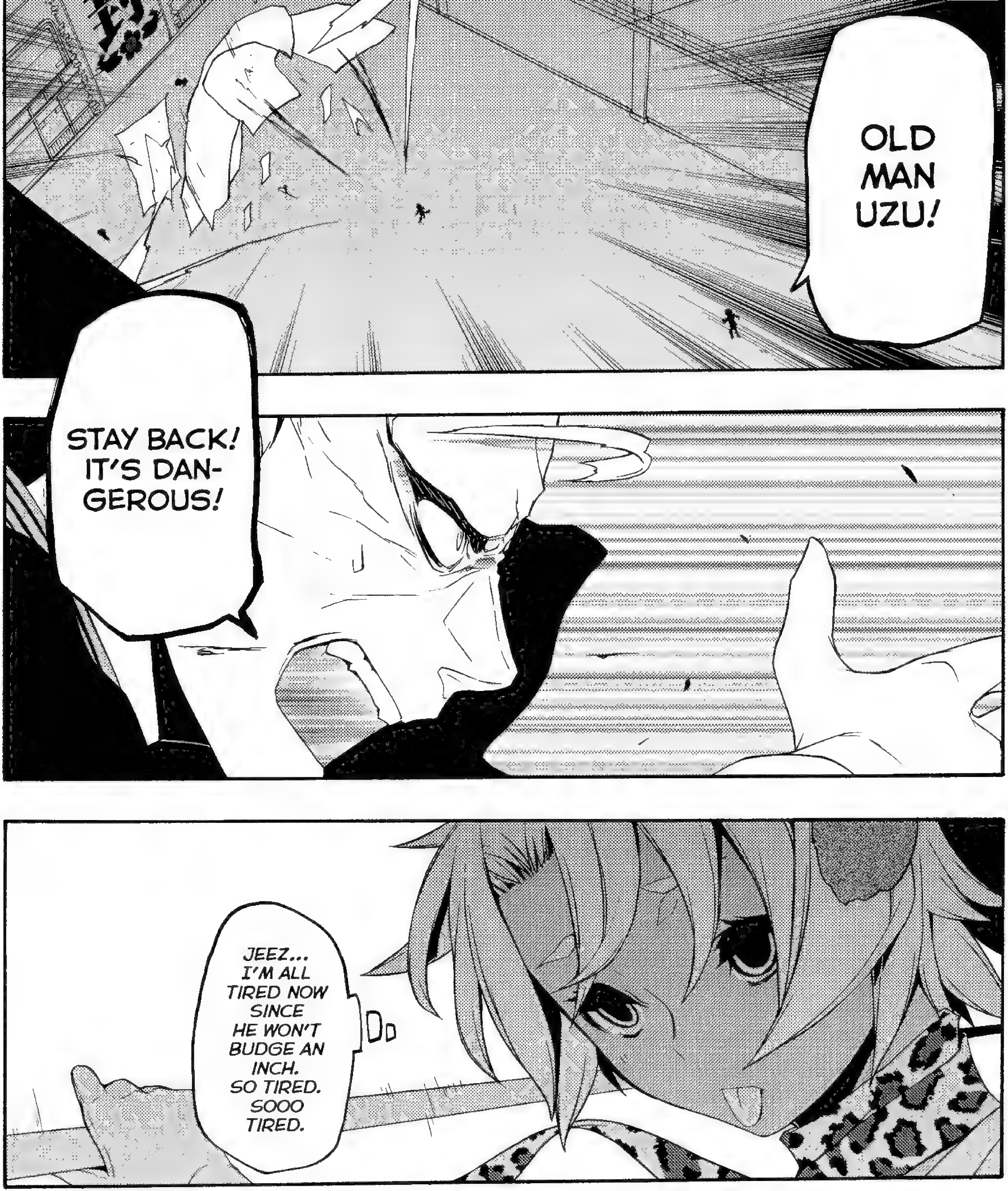

シュウウ…
SHHH
A CONCUSSION.
NO SURPRISE, CONSIDERING HOW CLOSE SHE WAS.
LILA-SAN!
たたっ
TAP TAP

I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A BASEMENT HERE. ONE THAT GOES THIS DEEP, TOO...
NO SIGN OF THE YAMABIKO.
!
とん TAP
MURASAKI!
WHAT HAPPENED?!
ぽん POOF
...IT WAS A POOR BATTLE GROUND.
AND I'D JUST HAD MY NOSE DEEP IN A BOOK.
ごろん ROLL
I NEGLECTED TO SWITCH OVER TO BATTLE MODE.
PLEASE HURRY.
BUT YOU...
I'M FINE.
YOU HAVE TO STOP HER.

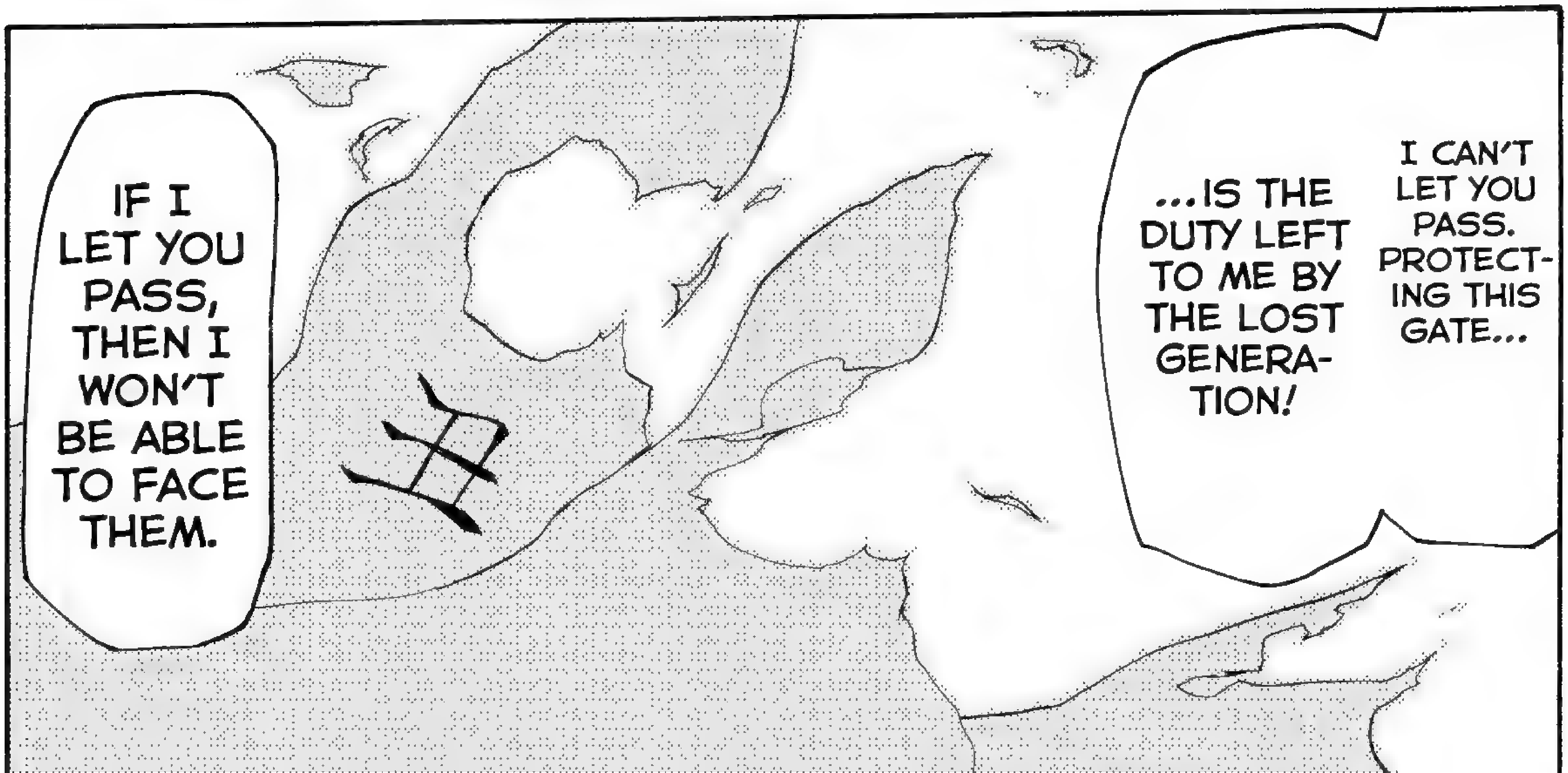

IF SHE MAKES IT PAST THAT GATE...
...THEN IT'LL BE OUR, *HUMANITY'S*, LOSS.
封

Kanji: Seal

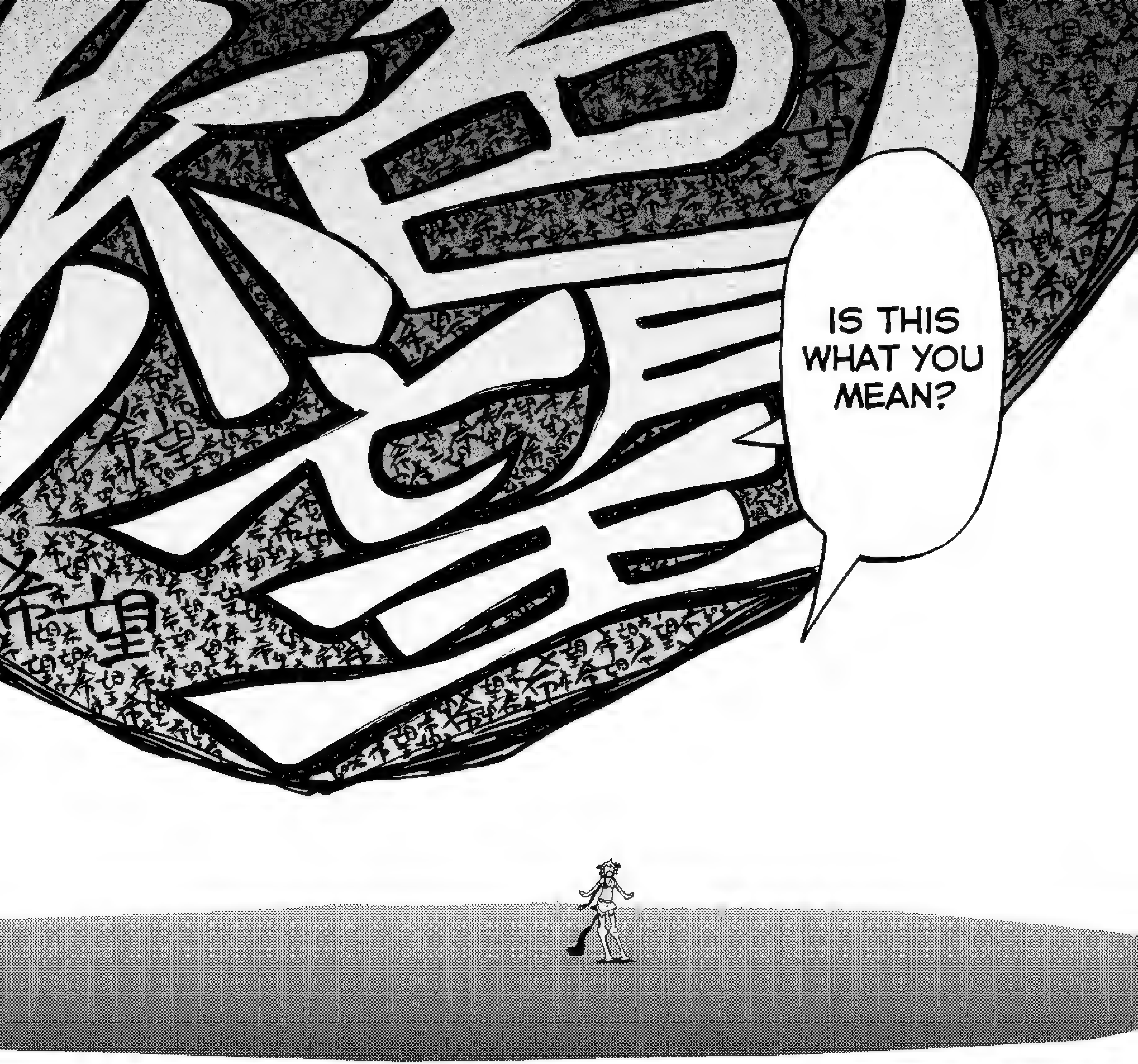

WHACK
CLANG


OLD MAN UZU!
STAY BACK! IT'S DANGEROUS!
JEEZ... I'M ALL TIRED NOW SINCE HE WON'T BUDGE AN INCH. SO TIRED. SOOO TIRED.

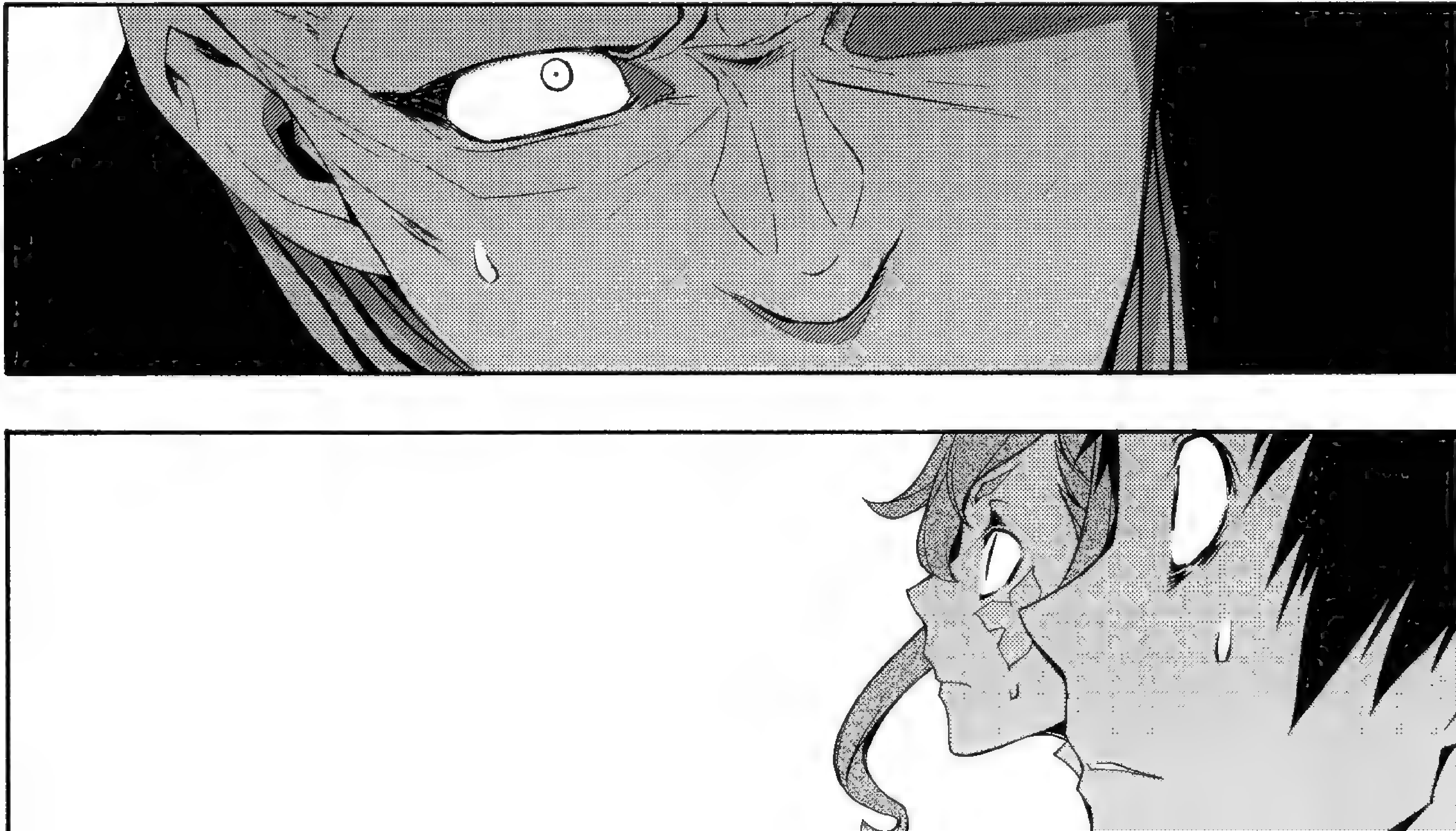
Golem: Ox


I CAN'T LET YOU PASS. PROTECTING THIS GATE...
...IS THE DUTY LEFT TO ME BY THE LOST GENERATION!
IF I LET YOU PASS, THEN I WON'T BE ABLE TO FACE THEM.

THIS IS OUR,
HUMANITY'S...
...HOPE!
WHAT COULD BE INSIDE?
...HOPE?
ぽそっ
MUMBLE
HOPE!
HOPE.
HOPE.
HOPE.
HOPE.
HOPE.
HOPE.
HOPE.


希望
IS THIS WHAT YOU MEAN?

Bubble: Hope



GWOH
ゴトッ
CLACK

BOING
ぷるん
IT'S OPEN!
IT'S OPEN!
ぷるん
BOING
PEEK
THIS IS IT. THIS IS IT.
THIS IS WHAT I WAS TOLD TO FIND.
ENJIN-SAMA...
I BET HE'LL BE SOOO HAPPY.
I WONDER HOW HE'LL REWARD ME.

もじ FIDGET
もじ FIDGET
HMM…
WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH THIS TO MAKE HIM HAPPY AGAIN?
I FORGOT.
CLANG
I'LL ASK HIM AGAIN.
WILL HE BE ANGRY? I WONDER HOW HE'LL PUNISH ME.
たっ TMP
たっ TMP

WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT...?
...
HNH...
OH, YOU'RE AWAKE.
ザッ
SKF
ガラッ
CRUMBLE
ザッ
SKF

ZERO
WHAT... IS THIS?

AH ...
フラ
SWAY
KO-TO-HA.
ガッ
PAT
THESE ARE...
...MY MOM AND DAD'S NAMES...
ゆら
SWAY

DAD AND...
MOM ...?
KOTO-HA-CHAN!
SLUMP
ガくっ
WHAT IS THIS?
ポツ PLIP
ポツ PLIP
ポツ PLIP
ザァ HISS
ポツ PLIP

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!
H
PI

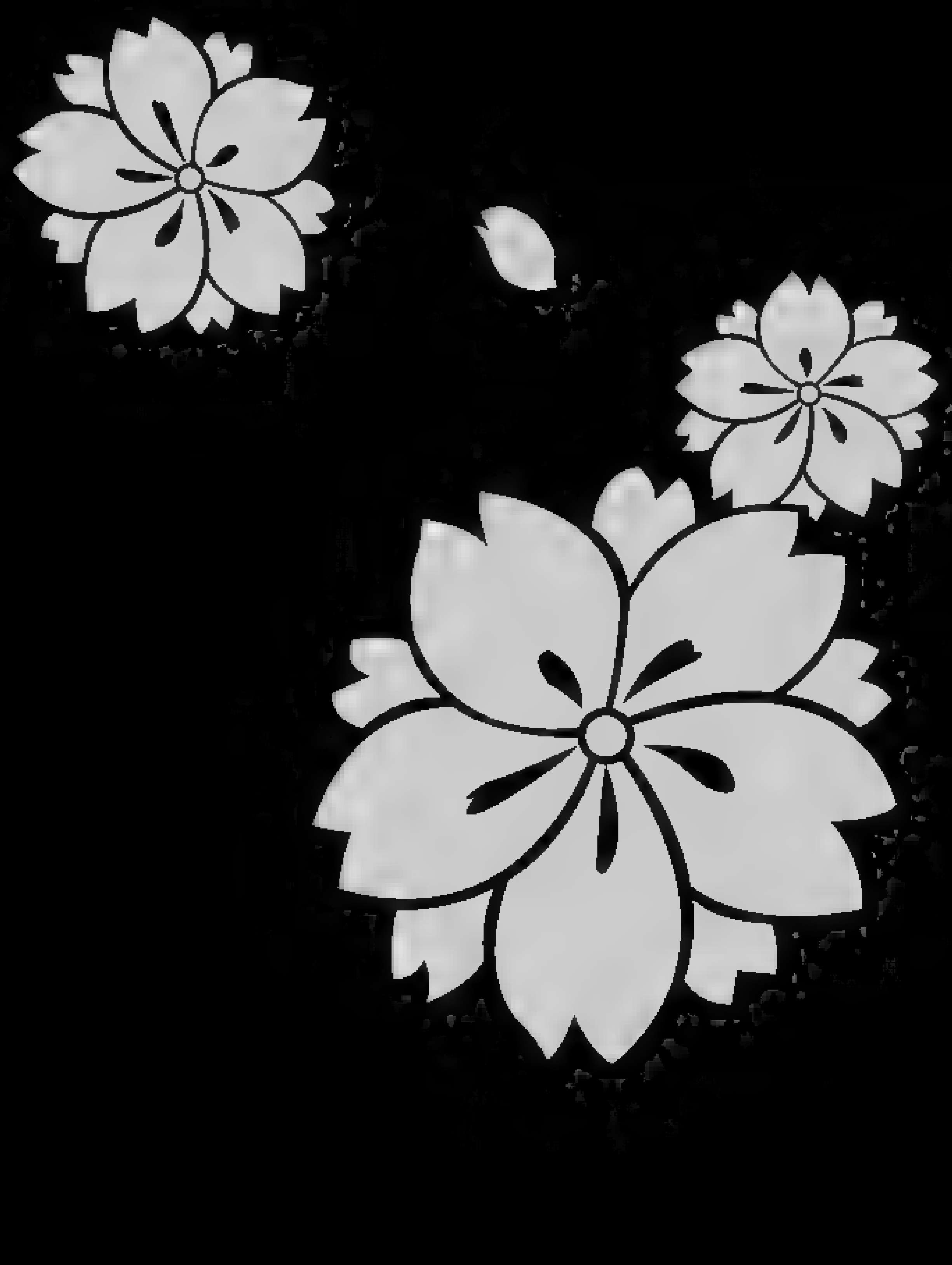
Ts
Ts
Ts
...

零

85TH NIGHT *KOTONODAMA* (PART FIVE) END

To be Continued .....

YOZAKURA
QUARTET
16



Guest One-Shot
Published: *Bessatsu Shonen Magazine* Nov. 2013 Issue
Weekly Shonen Magazine #44 2013

This is a one-shot that was published in *Bessatsu Shonen Magazine* and *Weekly Shonen Magazine* to go along with the anime. It feels a lot like a character introduction chapter for new readers, but I hope *tankoban* readers can enjoy it for what it is, too.

HMM...
I SEE. I SEEEE...
AT IT AGAIN WITH THE POINTLESS SCHEMES, HUH, MAYOR?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, POINTLESS? THIS IS IMPORTANT BUSINESS!
THE TOWN FESTIVAL IS COMING UP, RIGHT?
SO I THOUGHT I'D DO A FORTUNE-TELLER STAND!
FORTUNE-TELLER
STAND?
DID YOU HAVE TO SET UP RIGHT NEXT TO THE DEMON LIFE COUNSELING OFFICE?
THE OFFICE HANDLES THE FORMALITIES, WHILE WE TACKLE THE MENTAL SIDE OF THINGS.
IT'S A WIN-WIN SITUATION!
UH-HUH.
SO, WHAT'S WITH THE GETUP, TOUKA?
ひ～ん
UUUH
I'M HER ASSISTANT...
HIME-CHAN MADE ME WEAR THIS TO HELP SET THE MOOD...
I HELPED YOU WITH YOUR ENGLISH REPORT, DIDN'T I?
YEAH, BUT...

WELL, GO AHEAD AND READ MY FORTUNE, THEN.
...YOU'VE BEEN TROUBLED BY YOUR OVERACTIVE APPETITE LATELY.
HUH?
ドキ JOLT
YOUR BREASTS GREW SLIGHTLY AGAIN.
AND YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT GETTING A HAIRCUT IN A COUPLE DAYS.
WHA?
HUH?
EHH?
WOW.
HOW DID YOU KNOW ALL OF THAT?
SHE MIGHT BE THE REAL DEAL.
ガタッ CLUNK
GEH! AO!
YOU'RE READING MY MIND WITH YOUR SATORI POWER, AREN'T YOU?!
POP ぬーん
BUSTED...
IT'S OKAY, KOTOHA. SHE DIDN'T READ YOUR MIND.
I JUST ASKED AO FOR INFO SHE ALREADY KNEW.
THAT'S BAD, TOO!
LOOKS LIKE FUN.
READ MY FORTUNE, TOO, HIME-CHAN.
HM?

LET'S SEE ...
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY SEEK ANSWERS ABROAD.
STUDY ENGLISH!
THAT'S NOT EVEN DIVINATION.
AT LEAST USE THE CRYSTAL BALL.
HANG ON... IF I TEAM UP WITH AO, THEN WE COULD RAKE IN THE CASH.
ALL RIGHT!
ぱっ
FLIP
SHORTCUT.
"FORTUNE-TELLER'S HUT"!
ばーん
DOOM
PIECE OF CAKE WITH KOTODAMA!
WA HA HA!
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO PUT THIS NEXT TO THE OFFICE AND HIME-CHAN'S TENT ...?
AREN'T THEY COMPETING?
NO, NO. THIS IS ONE OF THOSE CASES WHERE WORD OF MOUTH BRINGS IN MORE CUSTOMERS OVERALL.
IT'S WIN-WIN-WIN!
IT'S GREAT THAT YOU'RE ALWAYS SO POSITIVE, HIME-CHAN!

LET US JOIN IN, TOO!
どやどやどや
TROD TROD TROD
WOW... HERE COMES A CROWD.
I'M DOING A RAMEN STAND!
わいわいわい
RABBLE RABBLE RABBLE
I'M DOING A SIMPLE MEDICAL TENT FOR PEOPLE.
BEER GARDEN!
I'M DOING A CONFESSIONAL.
THAT MAKES FOUR CONSULTATION STANDS!
NO, NO. THE SYNERGY BETWEEN THEM ALL MAKES THIS A WIN-WIN-WIN-WIN...
ENOUGH WITH THE WIN-WIN!
ARE YOU A MASSAGER OR WHAT?!
ALRIGHTY! LEAVE THE CONJURING TO ME!
わー YAY!
わー YAY!
YOU ROCK, KOTOHA-CHAN!
おわあ UWAAH

どん
DOOM
どん
DOOM
どーん
DOOM
AAAH! WAAAIT! THIS ISN'T A SCHOOL FESTIVAL! ER... AN AMUSEMENT PARK? NO...
SEEK ANSWERS ABROAD.
はっ
GASP
I SEE. THEN THE ANSWER IS...
...THE WORLD FAIR!
SOUNDS RIGHT.
SURE, WHY NOT?

END

THE WORLD FAIR!

SHE LIKES IT.

LIVE
IS THE RELAY UP? LET'S ROLL THOSE CAMERAS!
TAP
TAP
TAP
ZZT
ZZT
IS IT ON? IS THIS THING ROLLING?
HELLO, EVERYONE! THIS IS YUUDOKI TELEVISION. TODAY, WE'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE THE MAYOR OF SAKURASHIN!
RIGHT HERE, WE SEE... HEEEY! HIME-CHAN! HANG ON A SEC!
SKFF
HUH?! OH, THE TV THING WAS TODAY?!
HERE WE HAVE SAKURASHIN'S ACTIVE MAYOR! INTRODUCE YOURSELF, PLEASE!
ERR... I'M THE MAYOR, HIME YARIZAKURA!
?
I'M STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL, BUT YES, I AM THE MAY-
SORRY FOR THE WAIT, HIME-CHAN! HOP ON!
LIVE
SKREE
ALL RIGHT! WAIT, YOU'RE GONNA RIDE WHILE FILMING?!
IT'S AN UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL SPECIAL! MIND IF I INTERVIEW YOU?
どた
CLAMOR
ばた
CLAMOR
UHH, CAN IT WAIT?
I KINDA...
LI

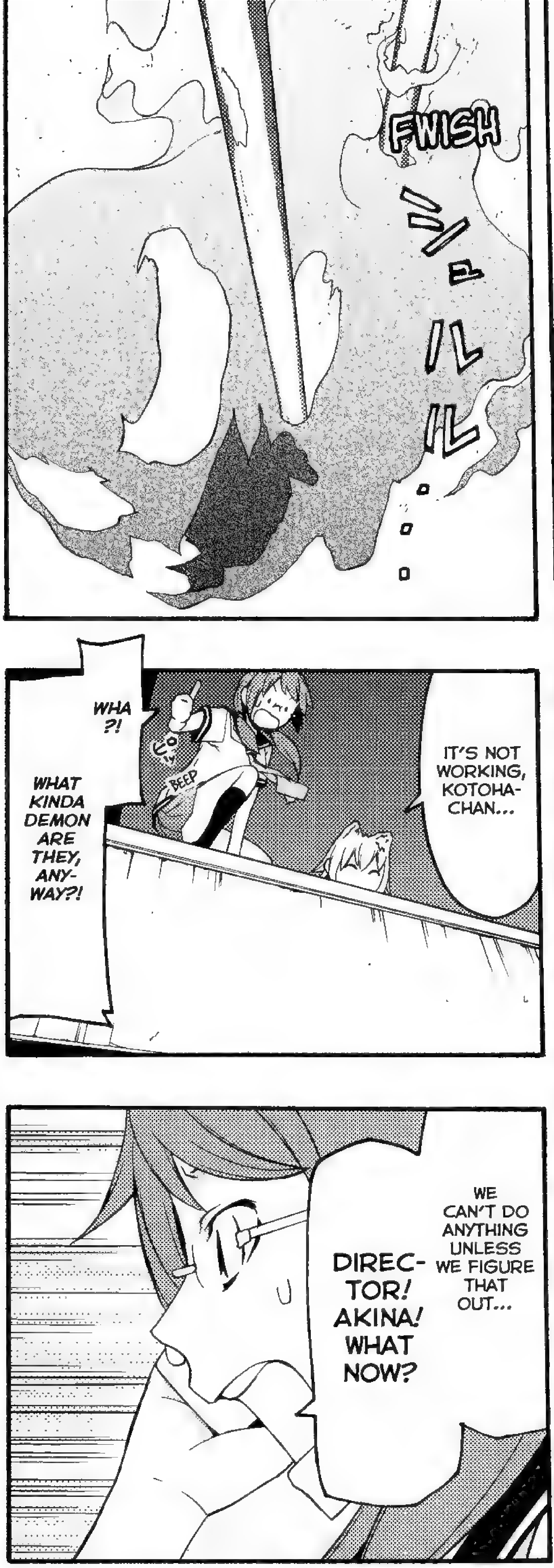
...HAVE MY HANDS TIED...
...AT THE MOMENT!
SKRRR

WHOA!
ZSH
KRRR
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU WORK AS A REPORTER IN A WHILE, JURI-SAN!
WOO
WELL, THEY ASKED ME TO DO IT.
SO, WE'RE HERE AT SAKURA-SHIN TODAY.
SAKURA-SHIN IS FAMOUS FOR BEING A MELTING POT OF HUMANS AND DEMONS ALIKE.
JURI-SAAAN!
CHEERS CHEERS
DESPITE THAT, THE TOWN IS LARGELY AT PEACE MOST OF THE TIME...
THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
WHY IS IT THAT SO MANY DEMONS CONGREGATE HERE? OH, WE'RE COMING UP ON IT NOW...

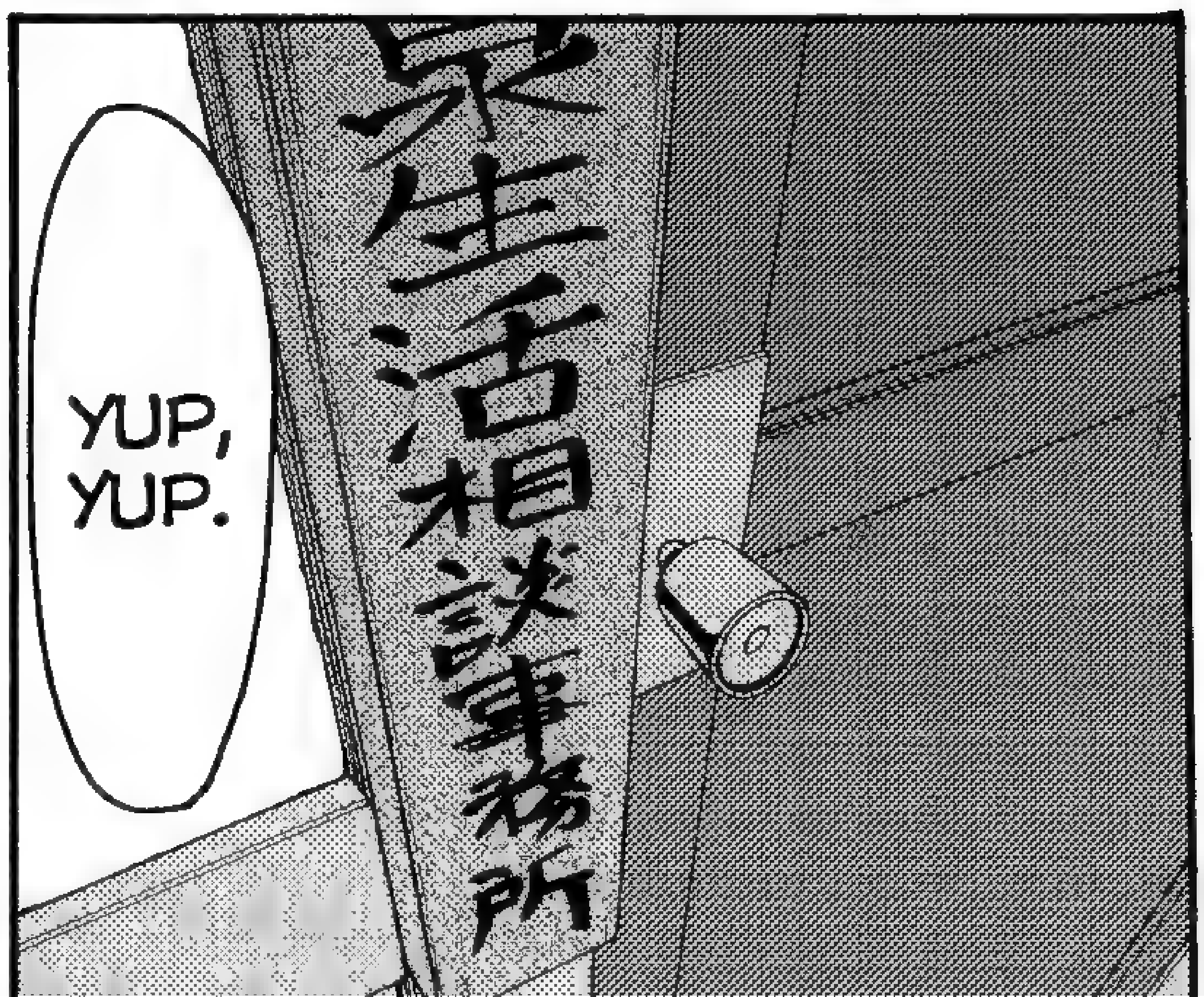
TO OUR RIGHT STANDS ONE OF THE SEVEN PILLARS, THE SYMBOL OF THIS TOWN!
WITH THE SEVEN PILLARS AS A WAY-POINT, DEMONS FROM ALL OVER GATHER IN THIS TOWN...
...FOR THE PURPOSE OF BEING SENT TO THE OTHER REALM, WHERE THEY ORIGINALLY CALL HOME.
WOO
STAND BACK PLEASE! IT'S DANGEROUS!
OO
COULD THE DEMON RAMPAGING THROUGH THE STREETS AHEAD OF US BE ONE SUCH SOUL WHO ANSWERED THE CALL OF THE SEVEN PILLARS?!
CRIES
CRIES
BEEP
JUST FOR THE RECORD, ALL THE DEMONS LIVING IN TOWN ARE WELL-BEHAVED!
AO! WE JUST PASSED THE FOURTH PILLAR! IT'S HEADED YOUR WAY!
FZZZ
WOO

OKEY-DOKE. WE'LL BE WAITING.
HERE IT COMES, KOTOHA-CHAN!
CRACK
コキッ
ROGER!
OOP! ON THE OTHER LINE, WE HAVE THE SATORI DEMON, AO "SHARP-EARED ANGEL" NANAMI!
DON'T MAKE UP A WEIRD ALIAS FOR ME!
あお～ん
WAAAH
AND WITH HER, THE BUSTY KOTODAMA USER, KOTOHA "THE KANTO POWDER KEG" ISONE!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING, JURI-SAN?!
BUT ... ALL YOU, KOTOHA!
SKSHH
ザァァァ
I KNOW, I KNOW.
NON-LETHAL, AS USUAL!

SHORT-CUT...
PILE-
ゴ
THUD
パチッ
BZT
ゴ
THUD
ゴン
THUD
ゴン
THUD
THUD
ゴン
DRIVER!


FWISH
シュルル…
IT'S NOT WORKING, KOTOHA-CHAN...
WHA?!
ピッ
BEEP
WHAT KINDA DEMON ARE THEY, ANYWAY?!
WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING UNLESS WE FIGURE THAT OUT...
DIRECTOR! AKINA! WHAT NOW?

Sign: Hiizumi Life Counseling Office


泉生活相談事務所
YUP, YUP.

I'M WATCHING THE FEED NOW.
LOOKS LIKE YOU GUYS HAVE YOUR HANDS FULL.
SIP ずず…
A LITTLE URGENCY, PLEASE!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF DEMON THEY ARE YET?!
日本の妖怪辞典
I THINK... I'VE JUST ABOUT NARROWED IT DOWN.
ずず SIP
日本の妖怪辞典
REALLY?! THEN WHAT...
AAAH!
KOTOHA! THE ROAD'S ALL BEAT UP!
ACK! BUSTED.
WELL, DUH.
ドヒュ
FWOO

Book: Japanese Demon Encyclopedia.

I'LL FIX IT UP.
LEAVE IT TO ME, AND GO ON AHEAD.
AND HERE WE HAVE ONE OF THE YOUNGER OF THE LAND GOD SIBLINGS!
THANKS, YAE!
WOO
I OWE YOU ONE...
すす
SLIDE
AAH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
CHIK
JUST PAY WITH YOUR BODY.
TO-NIGHT, EVEN...
ぬ
MOOSH
ボゴボゴ
WHACK WHACK
YOU OLD PERV!
THIS JUST IN. THE THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD ELDER LAND GOD SIBLING IS GETTING BEAT UP BY A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL.
WOO
OO
SKSH
SSSH

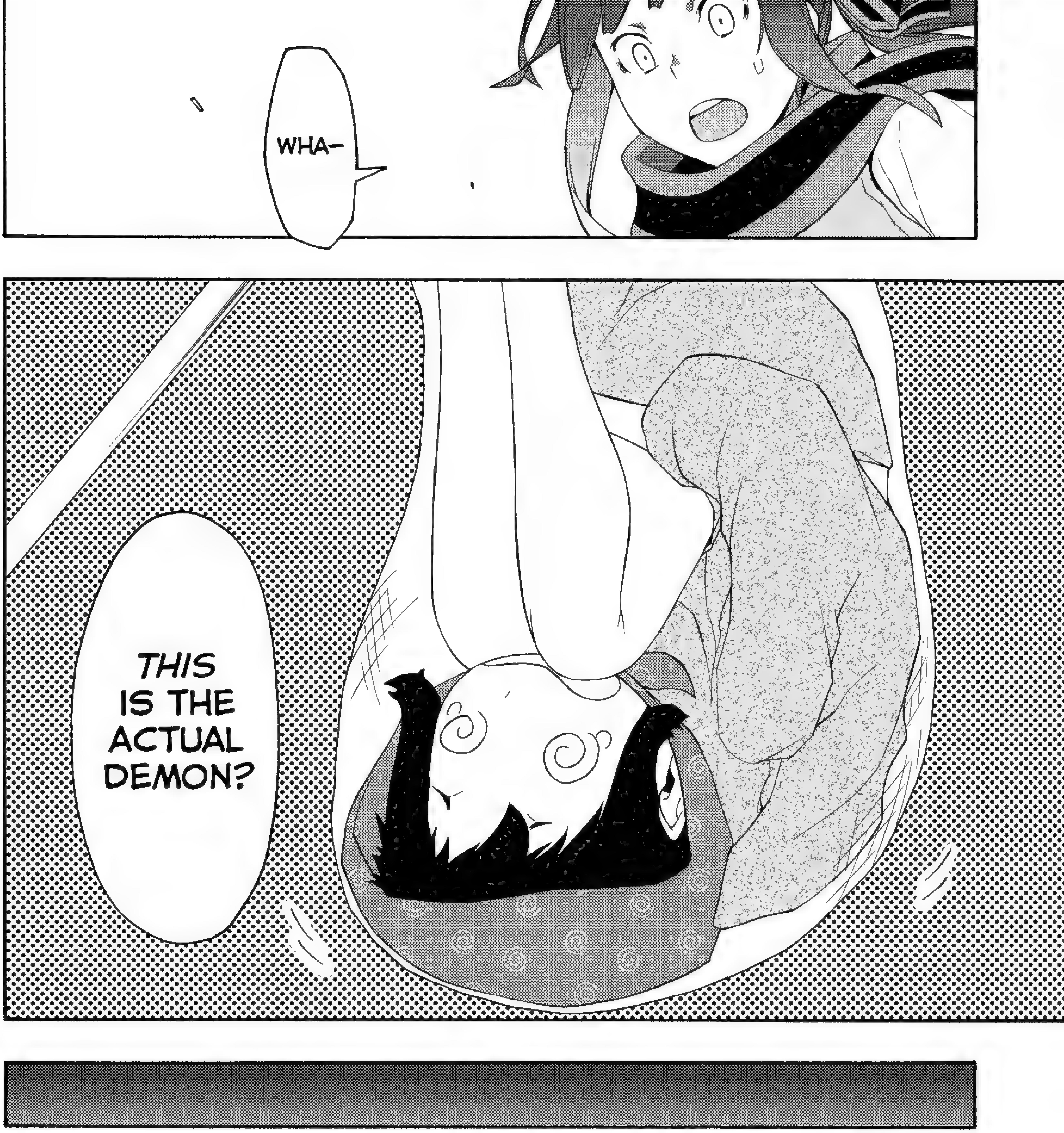
IT GREW BY ABSORBING THE SANDBOX SAND...
JUST WHAT KIND OF DEMON IS IT?!
I'M GONNA READ YOUR MIND, HIME-CHAN.
?
WOO
OOO
LEFT!
IT'S HEADED FOR THE FOURTH BLOCK!
ROGER!
BWOM

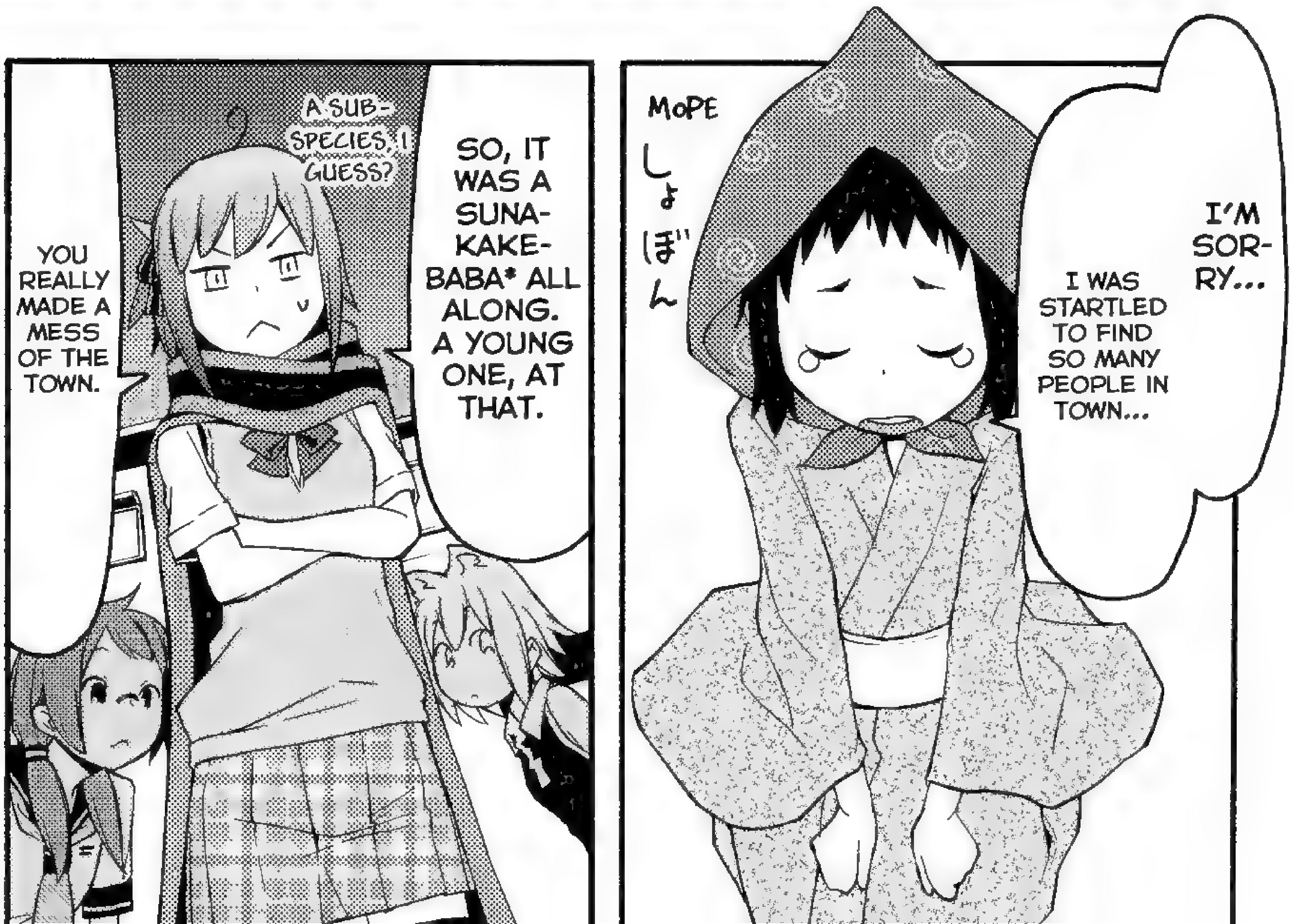
HEAVE...
...HO!
DOOF
MUD VS. SAND! WHO WILL BE THE VICTOR?!
GRRR
お
MAKE US SOME WEAPONS, KOTOHA-CHAN!
UHH... SAND... SAND...
OH! WE JUST HAVE TO BLOW IT ALL AWAY, RIGHT?!
SHORT-CUT...
GIANT FAN!
AH!
わっ
ぽんっ
POOF

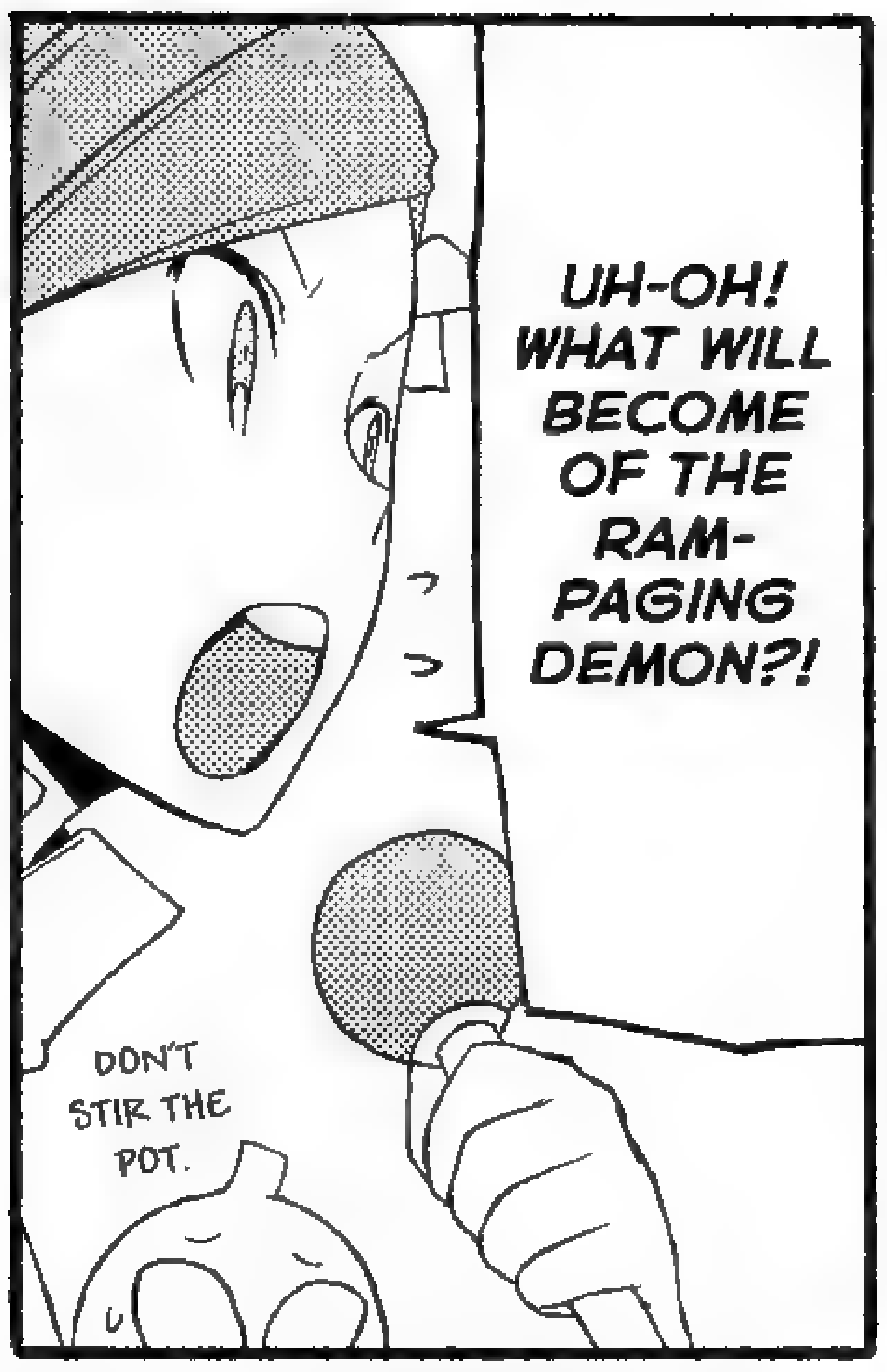
THIS IS OUR WEAPON?!
A FAN?
うちわ
I DON'T REALLY FOLLOW, BUT WAVE, TOUKA!
SHOW THEM THE POWER OF THE ONI!
WHOOSH
ゴ
GWOH
オ
WOO
CRACK
CRACK
THE SAND WON'T GO AWAY!
WOO
AAH. MY GOLEM IS DRYING OUT...
あれ〜
UH-OH
SHRRR
IT GOT ABSORBED!
WHAT?!
WOO

WHERE IS IT GOING, ANYWAY?
SKF
SKF
SKF
THIS WAY LEADS TO... THE EQUESTRIAN PARK?!
EQUESTRIAN PARK? THE PLACE WITH THE HORSES?
WHAT COULD IT WANT THERE?
...
OH, I GET IT!
THE DIRT TRACK!
600
BOOF
IT'S BEING DRAWN IN BY THE SAND ON THE TRACK!
IF IT ABSORBS ALL OF IT...
WOO
WE DON'T HAVE ANYONE POSTED THERE!
IT'S TOTALLY OPEN!
ゆら
SWAY

!
WOO
A-
AKI-NA!
OO
AAAND...
...GOTCHA!
SHOOP
FSHH


WHA–
THIS IS THE ACTUAL DEMON?


I'M SORRY...
I WAS STARTLED TO FIND SO MANY PEOPLE IN TOWN...
MOPE
しょぼん
SO, IT WAS A SUNAKAKE-BABA* ALL ALONG. A YOUNG ONE, AT THAT.
A SUBSPECIES, I GUESS?
YOU REALLY MADE A MESS OF THE TOWN.


UH-OH! WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE RAMPAGING DEMON?!
DON'T STIR THE POT.

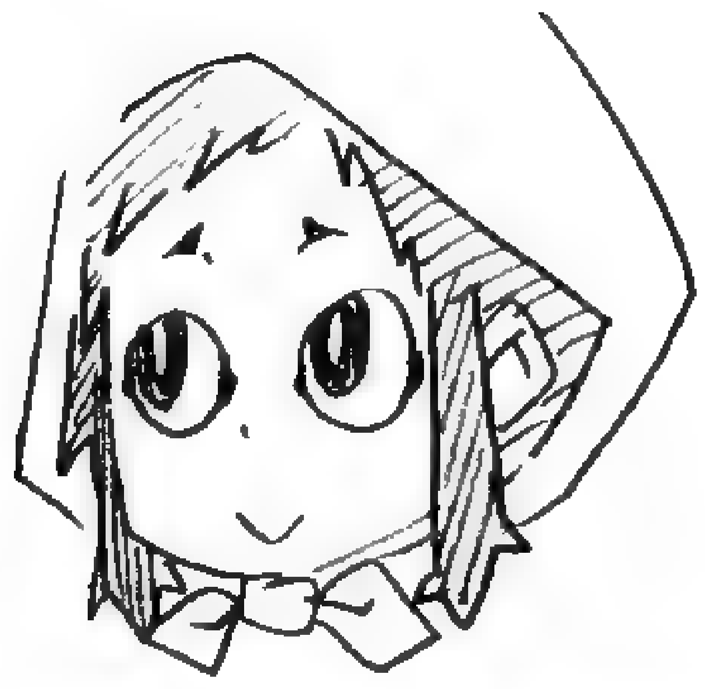
*Literally "Sand-throwing hag," a type of mischievous demon that throws sand at travelers.

じ
STARE
YOU WON'T CAUSE ANY MORE TROUBLE?
NO...
REALLY?
Y-YES.
PROMISE?
YES...
OKAY.
YOU SHOULD LIVE HERE, THEN.
WE'LL HELP YOU FIND A PLACE TO STAY.
WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD!
THE JUDGE HAS SPOKEN!

THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME COMING DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAINS, RIGHT? EVERYONE'S LIKE THAT AT FIRST.
I'LL GO WITH YOU, SO LET'S APOLOGIZE TO EVERYONE TOMORROW, OKAY?
TH-THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
おでん
YOU'LL MAKE A FINE SUNA-KAKE-BABA...
MAKE SURE YOU GO TO SCHOOL, TOO!
OKAY!
WHAT A WEIRD THING TO SAY.
BUT THE WHOLE THING WAS BROADCASTED LIVE.
あ
AH!
TH-THAT'S RIGHT.
FEWER PEOPLE ARE GONNA COME TO TOWN NOW...
NO PROBLEM.
WE'LL JUST ROLL THE EVENING NEWS. LET'S FILM SOMETHING ELSE INSTEAD.
GOOD IDEA!
BUT WHAT...?
WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION?
OH, YEAH!
GASP
は、
OUR TOWN'S SECRET WEAPON...

チャラ〜ン CHA-LA-LA
モヤモヤじゅり散歩2
A WALK WITH JURI 2
OH, IT'S STARTING.
THERE IS A DOJO IN TOWN LED BY A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG SWORDSWOMAN.
LET'S BEGIN EVENING TRAINING.
ITS DOORS ARE ALWAYS OPEN TO PUPILS LOOKING TO BUILD A SOUND MIND!
DEFEAT ME...
PLEASE...
IT KINDA TURNED INTO A RAUNCHY LATE-NIGHT SPECIAL.
WELL, I GUESS THAT'S FINE.
NO, IT'S NOT!
WAAAH!

END



I WANT TO PUT HER IN THE MAIN STORY, TOO.

かぽーん
PLUNK
よざカル！
YOZAQUART!
SHEESH... I CAN'T BELIEVE I EVEN HAVE TO TAKE BATHS IN SECRET...
もし
SCRUB
もし
SCRUB
IT'S HARD BEING A ROBOT.
FAKING BEING ONE, ANYWAY...
THINGS'LL GET COMPLICATED IF WORD GETS OUT THAT I'M NOT A ROBOT.
I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL AND...
しゃぶ
SCRUB
しゃぶ
SCRUB
ガチャ
CLACK

OH, IT'S JUST ROBO-AO. YOU STARTLED ME.
にこやか〜
SMILE
ずん
PLAP
ずん
PLAP
G-GREETINGS, GREEN CHILD...
ドキドキ
THUMP THUMP
AND WHO'RE YOU CALLING GREEN CHILD?
WHAT'S A ROBOT LIKE YOU TAKING A BATH FOR?
I... GOT SOME OIL ON ME.
I SEE. LET ME WASH IT OFF FOR YOU.
HUH? YOU'RE AWFULLY SOFT FOR A ROBOT.
GROPE
GROPE
THERE IS NO NEED!
WHY ARE YOU HERE, MIDORIKO-SAN?!
I CAME TO CLEAN THE BATH.
ホーホー
HOOT HOOT
AT THIS HOUR?!
AM 3:00
ARE YOU REALLY A ROBOT? LET ME GET A CLOSER LOOK...
ジャー
HISS
ばっしゃ
SPLASH
ばっしゃ
SPLASH
EEEK!
DON'T STRUGGLE, OR ELSE...
すてーん
THUD

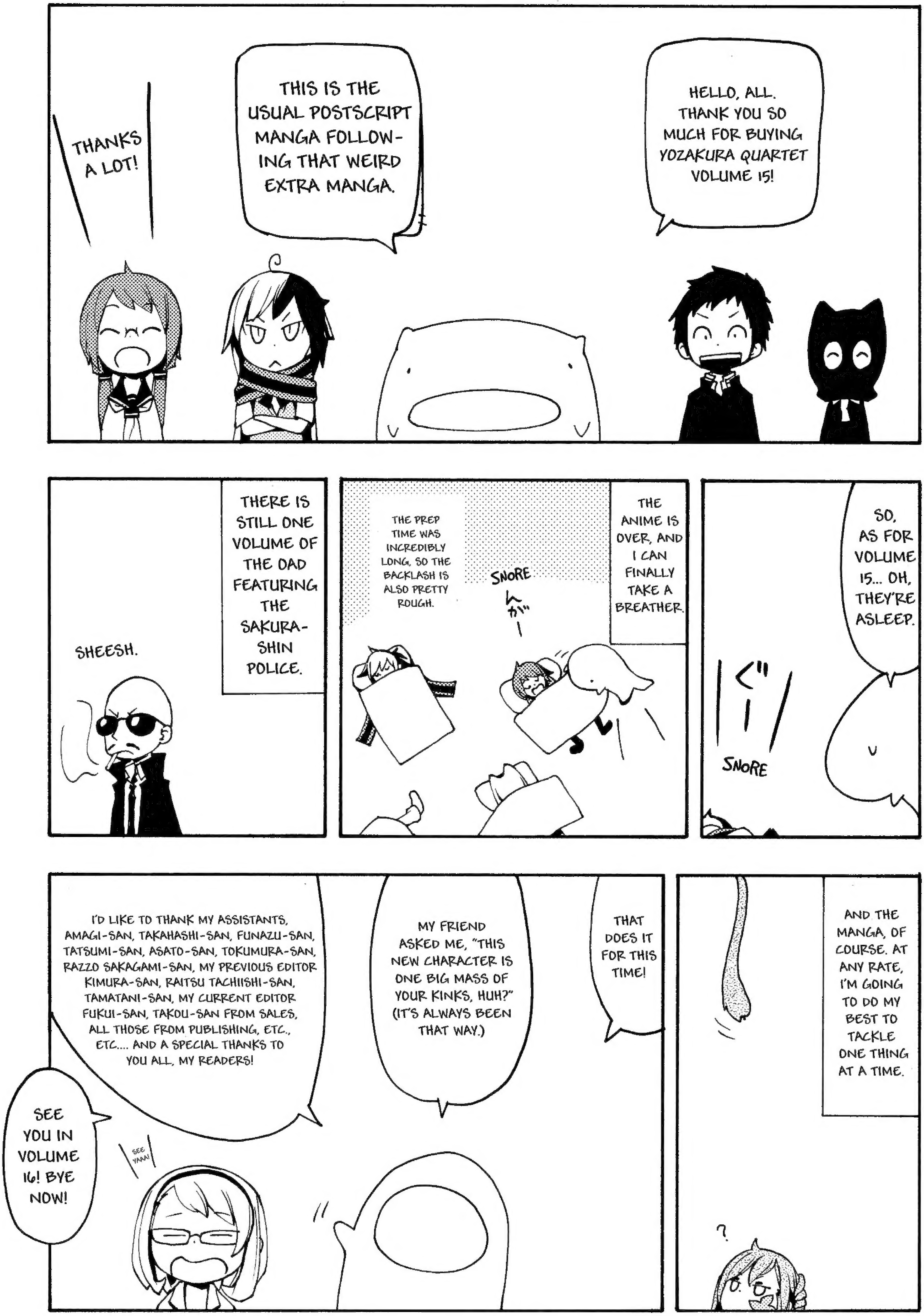
A ROBOT TAKING A BATH... A ROBOT TAKING A BATH...
DAZE
ぼー
HUH? SHE SEEMS KIND OF...
でーん
FLOP
I CAN'T EAT ANOTHER BITE...
OH, SHE'S SLEEPWALKING! THANK GOD!
WAIT, THAT'S NOT GOOD!
HER PERSONALITY ISN'T MUCH DIFFERENT FROM THE MAIN STORY...
I COULD TOTALLY SEE THAT HAPPENING...
I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST HER

POSTER ILLUSTRATION PACKED WITH THE DVD/BD OF
YOZAKURA QUARTET ~SONG OF FLOWERS~ VOL. 1

MONTHLY *SHONEN SIRIUS* NOVEMBER 2012 ISSUE COVER

KEY VISUAL 2 FOR THE *YOZAKURA QUARTET: SONG OF FLOWERS* ANIME

POSTSCRIPT MANGA


HELLO, ALL. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR BUYING YOZAKURA QUARTET VOLUME 15!
THIS IS THE USUAL POSTSCRIPT MANGA FOLLOWING THAT WEIRD EXTRA MANGA.
THANKS A LOT!
SO, AS FOR VOLUME 15... OH, THEY'RE ASLEEP.
ぐー
SNORE
THE ANIME IS OVER, AND I CAN FINALLY TAKE A BREATHER.
THE PREP TIME WAS INCREDIBLY LONG, SO THE BACKLASH IS ALSO PRETTY ROUGH.
SNORE
んがー
THERE IS STILL ONE VOLUME OF THE DAD FEATURING THE SAKURA-SHIN POLICE.
SHEESH.
AND THE MANGA, OF COURSE. AT ANY RATE, I'M GOING TO DO MY BEST TO TACKLE ONE THING AT A TIME.
?
THAT DOES IT FOR THIS TIME!
MY FRIEND ASKED ME, "THIS NEW CHARACTER IS ONE BIG MASS OF YOUR KINKS, HUH?" (IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THAT WAY.)
I'D LIKE TO THANK MY ASSISTANTS, AMAGI-SAN, TAKAHASHI-SAN, FUNAZU-SAN, TATSUMI-SAN, ASATO-SAN, TOKUMURA-SAN, RAZZO SAKAGAMI-SAN, MY PREVIOUS EDITOR KIMURA-SAN, RAITSU TACHIISHI-SAN, TAMATANI-SAN, MY CURRENT EDITOR FUKUI-SAN, TAKOU-SAN FROM SALES, ALL THOSE FROM PUBLISHING, ETC., ETC.... AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO YOU ALL, MY READERS!
SEE YOU IN VOLUME 16! BYE NOW!
SEE YAAA!

Yozakura Quartet 15

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

Yozakura Quartet volume 15 copyright © 2014 Suzuhito Yasuda
English translation copyright © 2017 Suzuhito Yasuda

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2014 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic Publishing rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC, San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682337714

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation by Adam Hirsch
Lettering by Allen Berry
Editing by Jesika Brooks
YKS Services LLC/SKY Japan, INC.